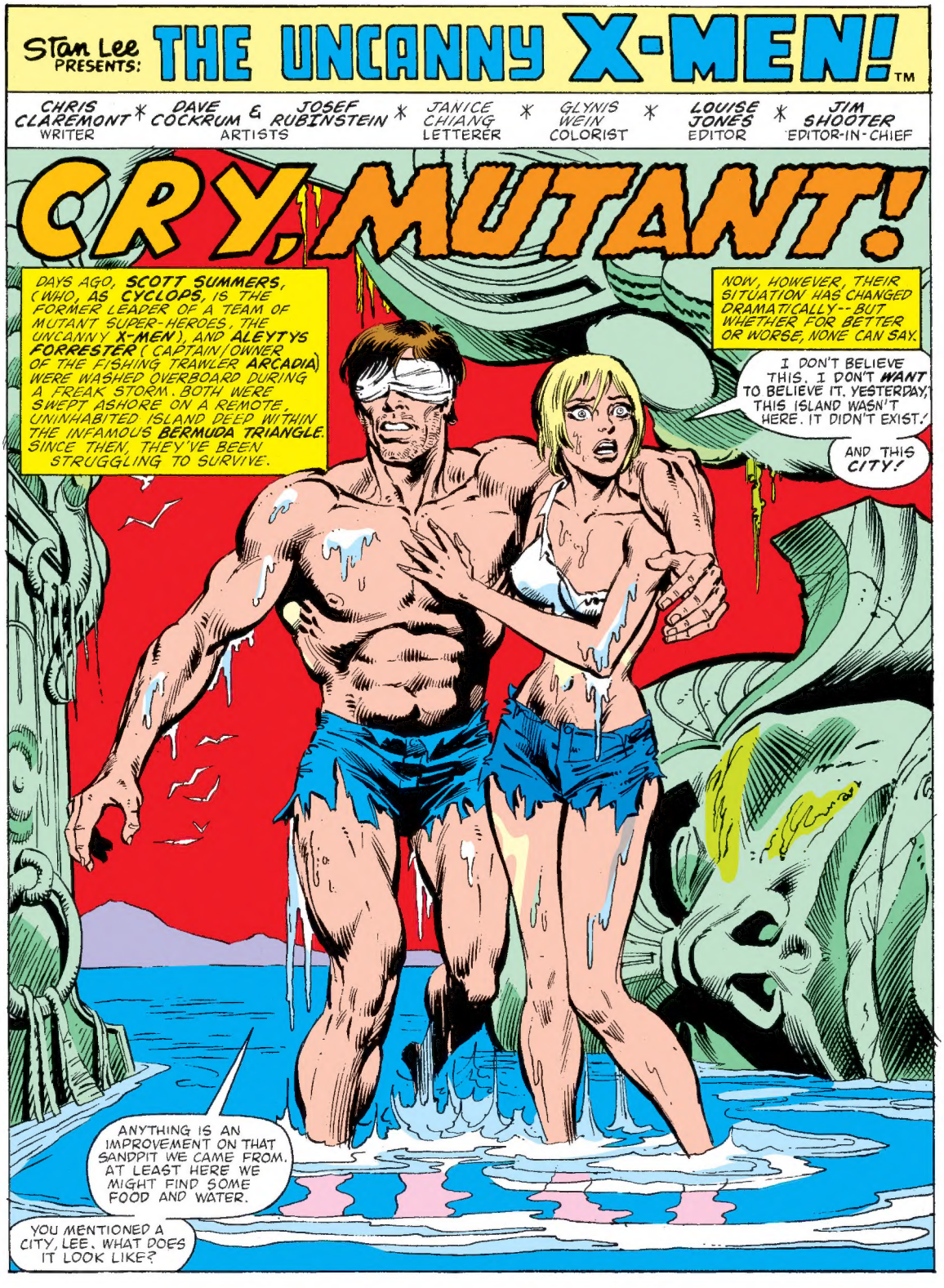
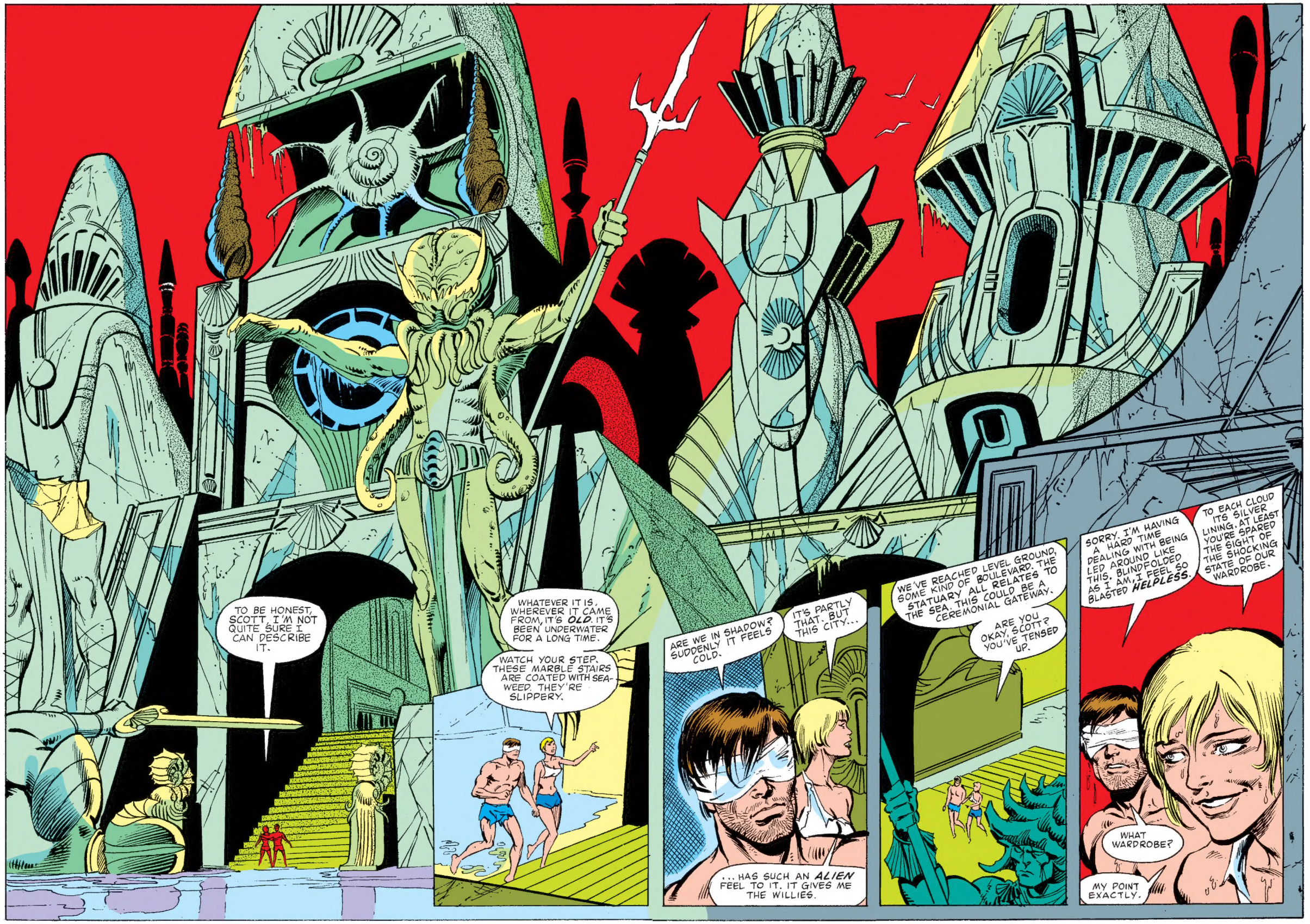
50¢
148
AUG
02461
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
©1981 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE UNCANNY
X-MEN™
DAZZLER™ AND SPIDER-WOMAN®
TO THE RESCUE WHEN KITTY FALLS --
TO THE SHADOW OF DEATH!



© 2014 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.WWW.MARVEL.COM


TO BE HONEST, SCOTT, I'M NOT QUITE SURE I CAN DESCRIBE IT.
WHATEVER IT IS, WHEREVER IT CAME FROM, IT'S OLD. IT'S BEEN UNDERWATER FOR A LONG TIME.
WATCH YOUR STEP. THESE MARBLE STAIRS ARE COATED WITH SEA-WEED. THEY'RE SLIPPERY.
ARE WE IN SHADOW? SUDDENLY IT FEELS COLD.
IT'S PARTLY THAT. BUT THIS CITY...
...HAS SUCH AN ALIEN FEEL TO IT. IT GIVES ME THE WILLIES.
WE'VE REACHED LEVEL GROUND, SOME KIND OF BOULEVARD. THE STATUARY ALL RELATES TO THE SEA. THIS COULD BE A CEREMONIAL GATEWAY.
ARE YOU OKAY, SCOTT? YOU'VE TENSED UP.
SORRY. I'M HAVING A HARD TIME DEALING WITH BEING LED AROUND LIKE THIS, BLINDFOLDED AS I AM, I FEEL SO BLASTED HELPLESS.
TO EACH CLOUD ITS SILVER LINING. AT LEAST YOU'RE SPARED THE SIGHT OF THE SHOCKING STATE OF OUR WARDROBE.
WHAT WARDROBE?
MY POINT EXACTLY.

LEE LEADING THE WAY, THEY BEGIN EXPLORING THE VAST ANCIENT CITY -- BUT BY NIGHTFALL, THEY'VE ONLY MANAGED TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE.

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE LEE LEARNED OF MY **OPTIC BLASTS**,* YET SHE HASN'T QUESTIONED ME ABOUT THEM. WHY? DOES SHE EXPECT ME TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

I HOW CAN I TELL HER ABOUT CYCLOPS WITHOUT INVOLVING THE OTHER X-MEN? I'D TRUST HER WITH MY SECRET. I'D... TRUST HER WITH MY **LIFE**. BUT WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO COMPROMISE MY FRIENDS? I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO HER. I... I'M NOT SURE I CAN.

NO FOOD. NO WATER. NO CLOTHES. NO PEOPLE.

BUT WE'VE SHELTER IN ABUNDANCE.

* SEE X-MEN #146 -- LOUISE.

CARE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT?

HMNH?!?

HER LIPS ARE AS SOFT, AS GENTLE, AS HER TOUCH. THE KISS IS TENDER.

FOR A MOMENT, SCOTT RESPONDS. AND THEN...

LEE, DON'T PLEASE.

WHAT'S WRONG? IS IT... **JEAN?**

HER NAME WAS **JEAN GREY**. WE WERE IN LOVE. SHE... DIED.

I LIKE YOU, LEE. I CARE FOR YOU. TOO MUCH. BUT IT'S TOO SOON. I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED AGAIN.

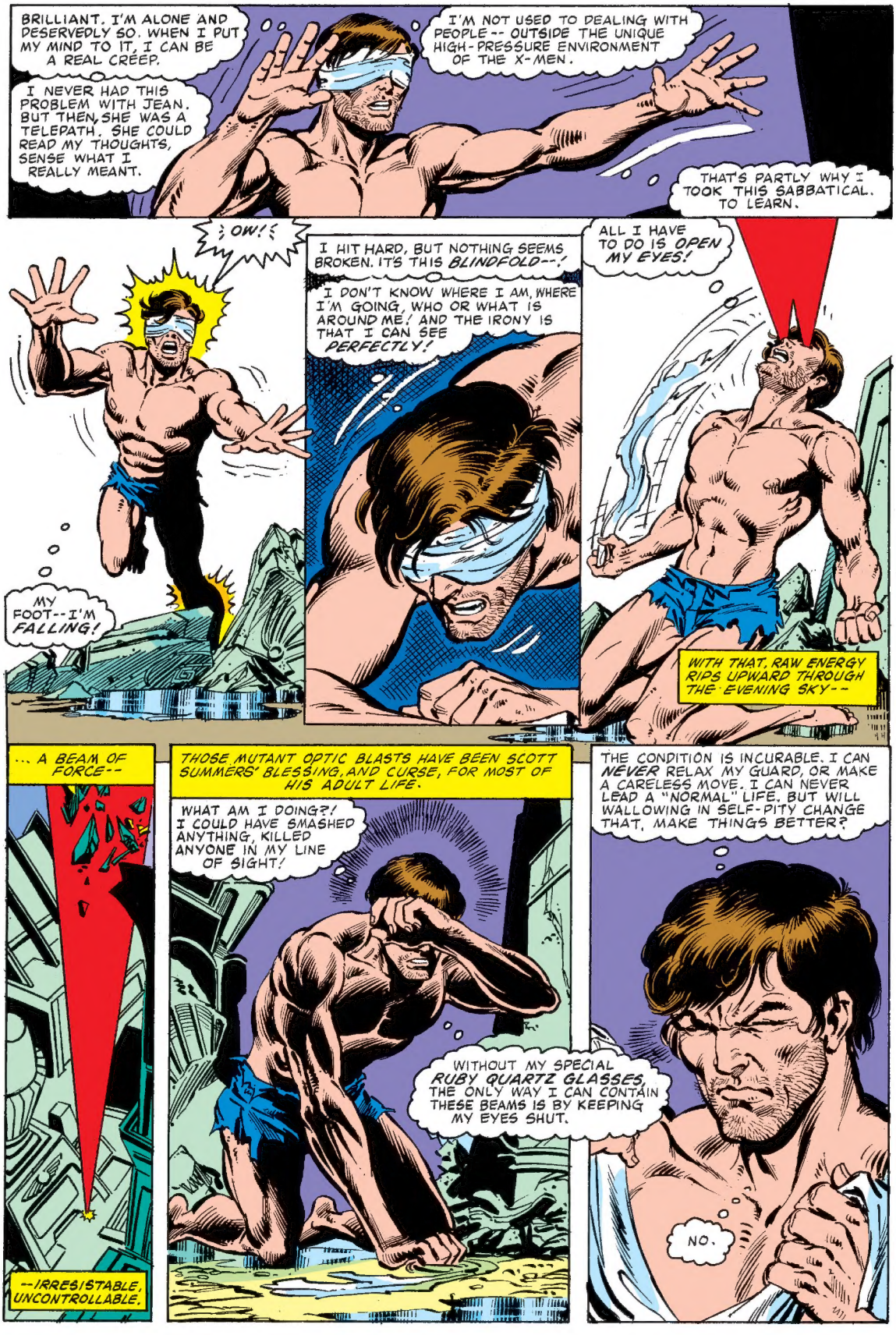
I'M NOT ASKING FOR INVOLVEMENT! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, SCOTT. I KNOW ABOUT GRIEF AND LOSS. WE BURIED MY **FATHER** TWO MONTHS AGO, REMEMBER?!*

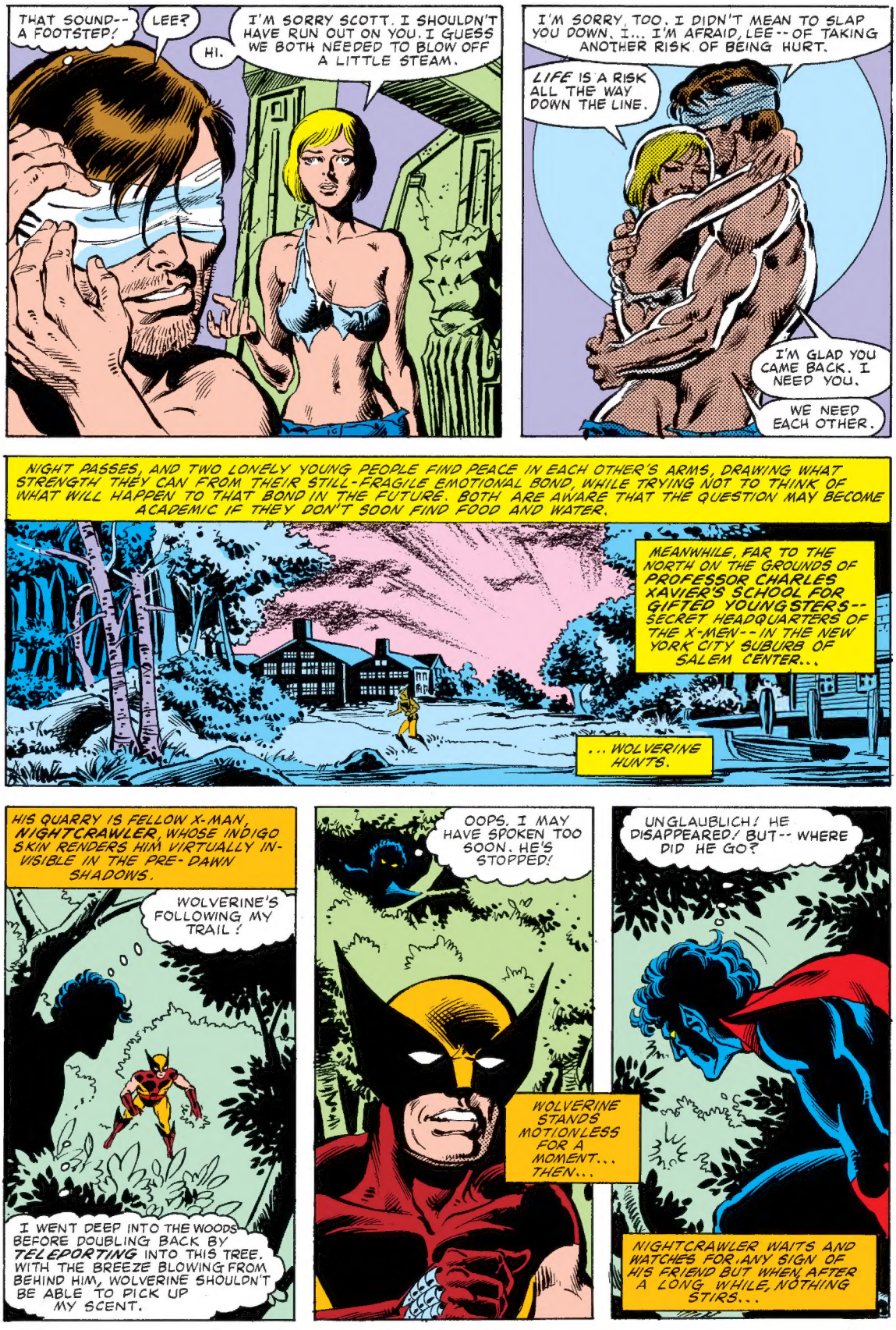
* X-MEN #144 -- L.

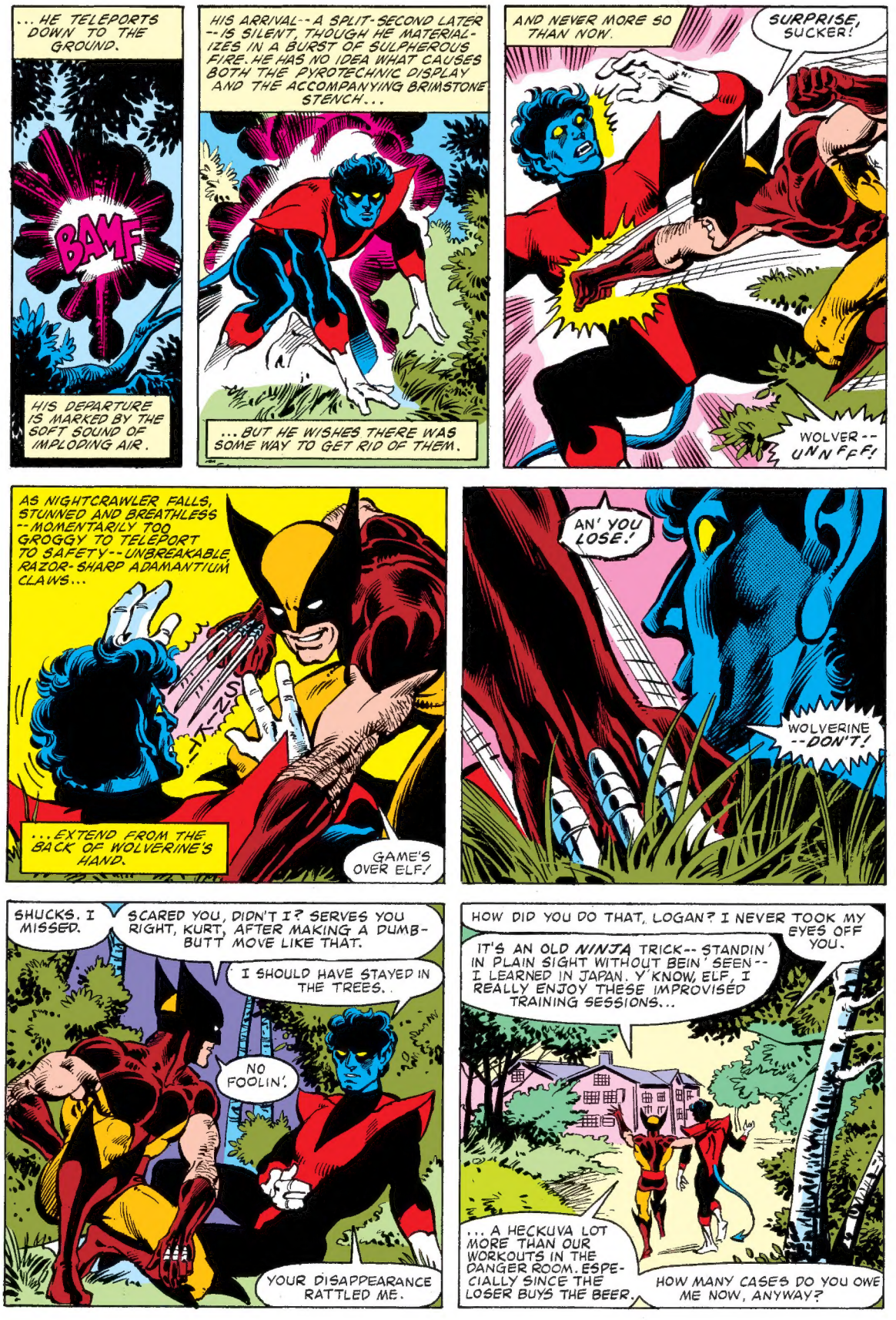
BUT I'M COLD AND HUNGRY AND **SCARED**! I NEED A LITTLE HUMAN WARMTH AND COMPASSION AND COMPANIONSHIP! AND IF THAT'S MORE THAN YOU CAN GIVE--

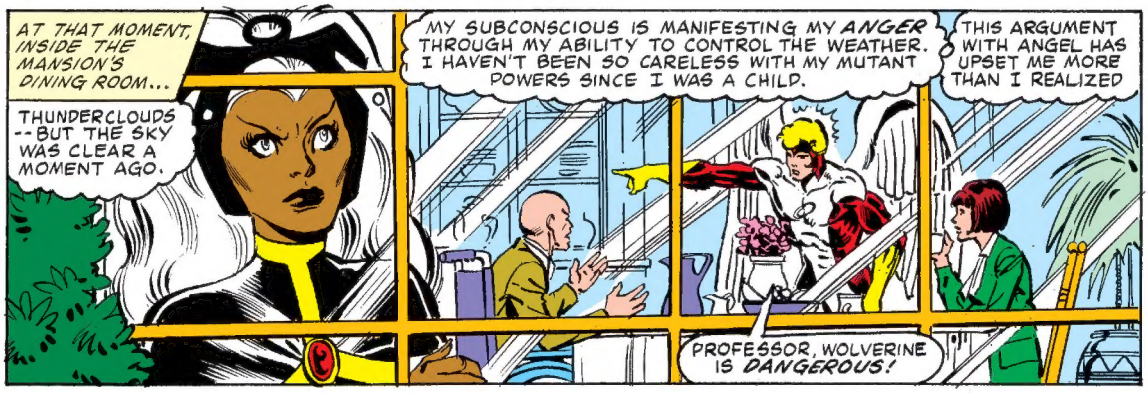
-- -- THEN TO BLAZES WITH YOU!

LEE?


BRILLIANT. I'M ALONE AND DESERVEDLY SO. WHEN I PUT MY MIND TO IT, I CAN BE A REAL CREEP.
I'M NOT USED TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE -- OUTSIDE THE UNIQUE HIGH-PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT OF THE X-MEN.
I NEVER HAD THIS PROBLEM WITH JEAN. BUT THEN, SHE WAS A TELEPATH. SHE COULD READ MY THOUGHTS, SENSE WHAT I REALLY MEANT.
THAT'S PARTLY WHY I TOOK THIS SABBATICAL. TO LEARN.
OW!
MY FOOT -- I'M FALLING!
I HIT HARD, BUT NOTHING SEEMS BROKEN. IT'S THIS BLINDFOLD --!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM, WHERE I'M GOING, WHO OR WHAT IS AROUND ME! AND THE IRONY IS THAT I CAN SEE PERFECTLY!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS OPEN MY EYES!
WITH THAT, RAW ENERGY RIPS UPWARD THROUGH THE EVENING SKY --
... A BEAM OF FORCE --
--IRRESISTABLE, UNCONTROLLABLE.
THOSE MUTANT OPTIC BLASTS HAVE BEEN SCOTT SUMMERS' BLESSING, AND CURSE, FOR MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE.
WHAT AM I DOING?! I COULD HAVE SMASHED ANYTHING, KILLED ANYONE IN MY LINE OF SIGHT!
WITHOUT MY SPECIAL RUBY QUARTZ GLASSES, THE ONLY WAY I CAN CONTAIN THESE BEAMS IS BY KEEPING MY EYES SHUT.
THE CONDITION IS INCURABLE. I CAN NEVER RELAX MY GUARD, OR MAKE A CARELESS MOVE. I CAN NEVER LEAD A "NORMAL" LIFE. BUT WILL WALLOWING IN SELF-PITY CHANGE THAT, MAKE THINGS BETTER?
NO.


THAT SOUND-- A FOOTSTEP!
LEE?
HI.
I'M SORRY SCOTT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN OUT ON YOU. I GUESS WE BOTH NEEDED TO BLOW OFF A LITTLE STEAM.
I'M SORRY, TOO. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SLAP YOU DOWN. I... I'M AFRAID, LEE -- OF TAKING ANOTHER RISK OF BEING HURT.
LIFE IS A RISK ALL THE WAY DOWN THE LINE.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME BACK. I NEED YOU.
WE NEED EACH OTHER.
NIGHT PASSES, AND TWO LONELY YOUNG PEOPLE FIND PEACE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, DRAWING WHAT STRENGTH THEY CAN FROM THEIR STILL-FRAGILE EMOTIONAL BOND, WHILE TRYING NOT TO THINK OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THAT BOND IN THE FUTURE. BOTH ARE AWARE THAT THE QUESTION MAY BECOME ACADEMIC IF THEY DON'T SOON FIND FOOD AND WATER.
MEANWHILE, FAR TO THE NORTH ON THE GROUNDS OF PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS -- SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE X-MEN -- IN THE NEW YORK CITY SUBURB OF SALEM CENTER...
... WOLVERINE HUNTS.
HIS QUARRY IS FELLOW X-MAN, NIGHTCRAWLER, WHOSE INDIGO SKIN RENDERS HIM VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE IN THE PRE-DAWN SHADOWS.
WOLVERINE'S FOLLOWING MY TRAIL!
I WENT DEEP INTO THE WOODS BEFORE DOUBLING BACK BY TELEPORTING INTO THIS TREE. WITH THE BREEZE BLOWING FROM BEHIND HIM, WOLVERINE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PICK UP MY SCENT.
OOPS. I MAY HAVE SPOKEN TOO SOON. HE'S STOPPED!
WOLVERINE STANDS MOTIONLESS FOR A MOMENT... THEN...
UNGLAUBLICH! HE DISAPPEARED! BUT -- WHERE DID HE GO?
NIGHTCRAWLER WAITS AND WATCHES FOR ANY SIGN OF HIS FRIEND BUT WHEN, AFTER A LONG WHILE, NOTHING STIRS...

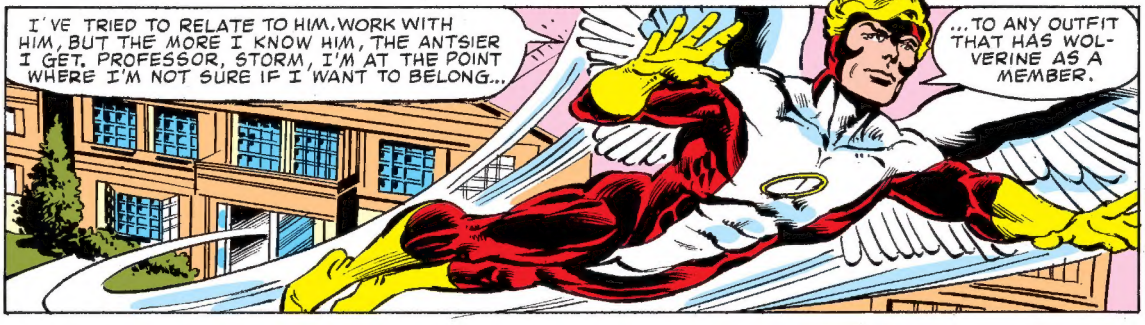

...HE TELEPORTS DOWN TO THE GROUND.
BAMF
HIS DEPARTURE IS MARKED BY THE SOFT SOUND OF IMPLODING AIR.
HIS ARRIVAL--A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--IS SILENT, THOUGH HE MATERIALIZES IN A BURST OF SULPHEROUS FIRE. HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT CAUSES BOTH THE PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY AND THE ACCOMPANYING BRIMSTONE STENCH...
...BUT HE WISHES THERE WAS SOME WAY TO GET RID OF THEM.
AND NEVER MORE SO THAN NOW.
SURPRISE, SUCKER!
WOLVER--UNNFFF!
AS NIGHTCRAWLER FALLS, STUNNED AND BREATHLESS--MOMENTARILY TOO GROGGY TO TELEPORT TO SAFETY--UNBREAKABLE, RAZOR-SHARP ADAMANTIUM CLAWS...
...EXTEND FROM THE BACK OF WOLVERINE'S HAND.
GAME'S OVER ELF!
AN' YOU LOSE!
WOLVERINE--DON'T!
SHUCKS. I MISSED.
SCARED YOU, DIDN'T I? SERVES YOU RIGHT, KURT, AFTER MAKING A DUMB-BUTT MOVE LIKE THAT.
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE TREES.
NO FOOLIN'.
YOUR DISAPPEARANCE RATTLED ME.
HOW DID YOU DO THAT, LOGAN? I NEVER TOOK MY EYES OFF YOU.
IT'S AN OLD NINJA TRICK--STANDIN' IN PLAIN SIGHT WITHOUT BEIN' SEEN--I LEARNED IN JAPAN. Y'KNOW, ELF, I REALLY ENJOY THESE IMPROVISED TRAINING SESSIONS...
...A HECKUVA LOT MORE THAN OUR WORKOUTS IN THE DANGER ROOM. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LOSER BUYS THE BEER.
HOW MANY CASES DO YOU OWE ME NOW, ANYWAY?


AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE MANSION'S DINING ROOM...
THUNDERCLOUDS --BUT THE SKY WAS CLEAR A MOMENT AGO.
MY SUBCONSCIOUS IS MANIFESTING MY ANGER THROUGH MY ABILITY TO CONTROL THE WEATHER. I HAVEN'T BEEN SO CARELESS WITH MY MUTANT POWERS SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
THIS ARGUMENT WITH ANGEL HAS UPSET ME MORE THAN I REALIZED
PROFESSOR, WOLVERINE IS DANGEROUS!

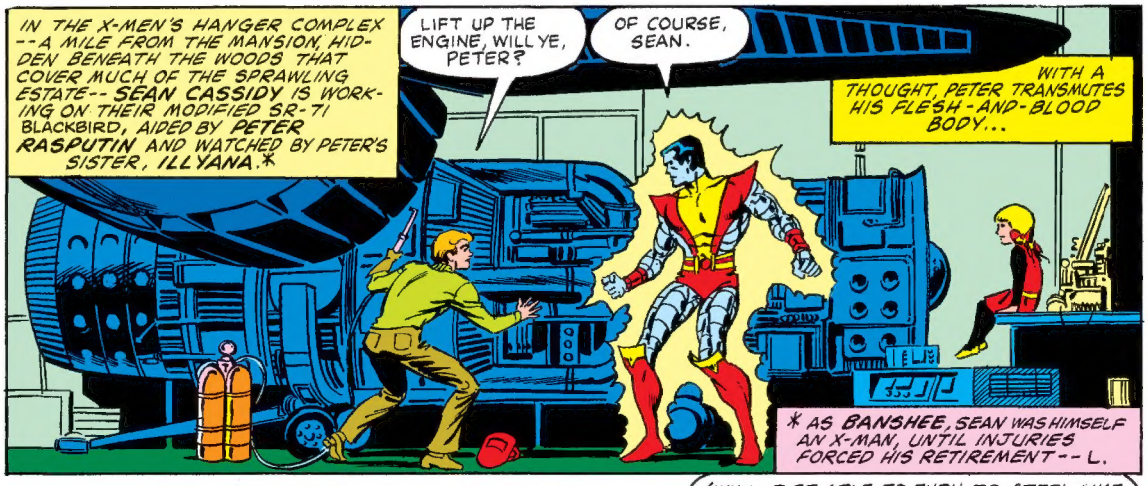
WITH HER MIND, ORORO-- THE X-MEN'S LEADER--REACHES INTO THE HEART OF THE NASCENT STORM AND, AS CASUALLY AS SHE SUMMONED IT, SENDS IT AWAY.
THEREFORE, ANGEL, WE SHOULD ABANDON HIM?

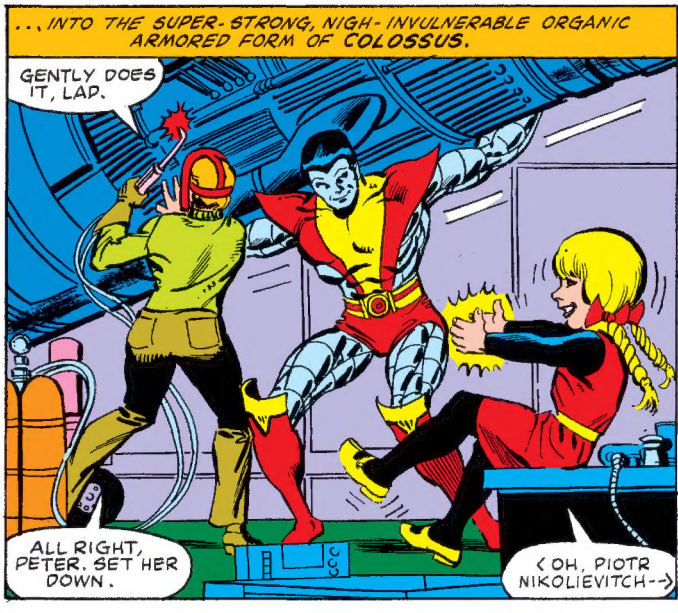
STORM, HE'S A BORN KILLER. WHEN HE FACED DR. DOOM'S ROBOT VERSION OF YOU* HE DESTROYED IT WITHOUT AN INSTANT'S HESITATION. ALL RIGHT, MAYBE HIS ENHANCED SENSES TOLD HIM IT WAS A ROBOT.
BUT WOULD IT HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE IF HE'D FACED A WOMAN DISGUISED AS YOU?
*LAST ISSUE-- LOUISE.

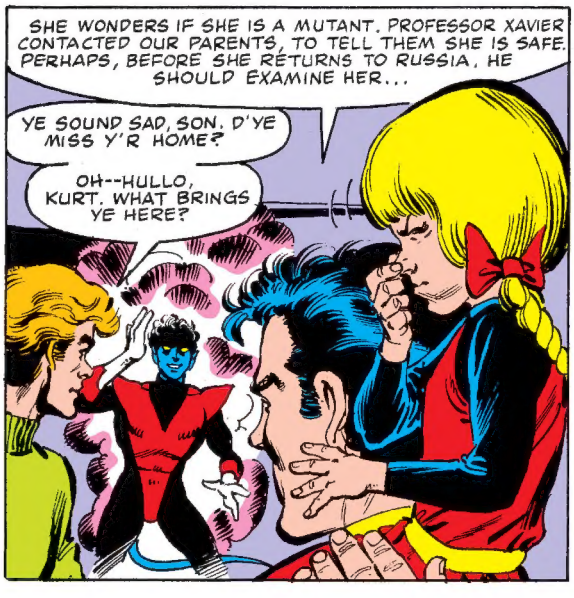
I THINK NOT, AND IT SCARES ME. PROFESSOR, YOU'RE THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTHORITY ON MUTANTS. YOU FOUNDED THE X-MEN. YOU KNOW US PROBABLY BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES.
I'D LIKE TO ASSUME YOU HAVE A LOGICAL REASON FOR KEEPING THAT LITTLE PYSCHOPATH AROUND.


I'VE TRIED TO RELATE TO HIM, WORK WITH HIM, BUT THE MORE I KNOW HIM, THE ANTSIER I GET. PROFESSOR, STORM, I'M AT THE POINT WHERE I'M NOT SURE IF I WANT TO BELONG...
...TO ANY OUTFIT THAT HAS WOLVERINE AS A MEMBER.

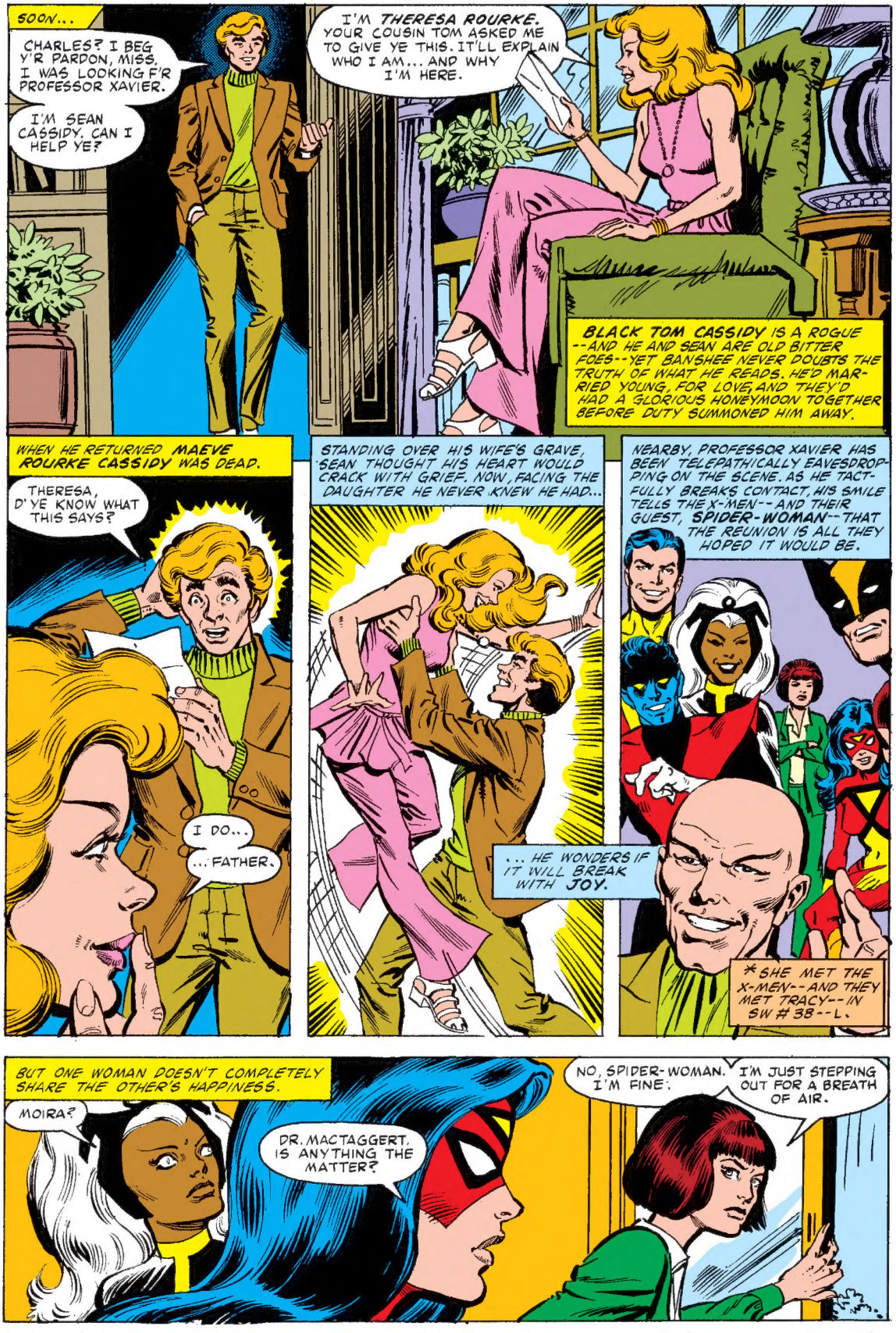
DOES THAT INCLUDE THE HUMAN RACE?
I, TOO, ABHOR WOLVERINE'S VIOLENT NATURE. BUT HE IS NOT AN X-MAN BECAUSE OF HIS PERFECT, STERLING CHARACTER. IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD. OUR DUTY AS X-MEN IS TO HELP HIM ACHIEVE THAT POTENTIAL. TO DENY WOLVERINE WOULD BE TO DENY OUR TRUE REASON FOR BEING. WHY DOES ANGEL NOT UNDERSTAND THAT?
HE DOES, STORM, BUT HE WONDERS IF THAT GOAL IS WORTH THE COST. I MUST CONFESS THAT, OCCASSIONALLY, SO DO I.

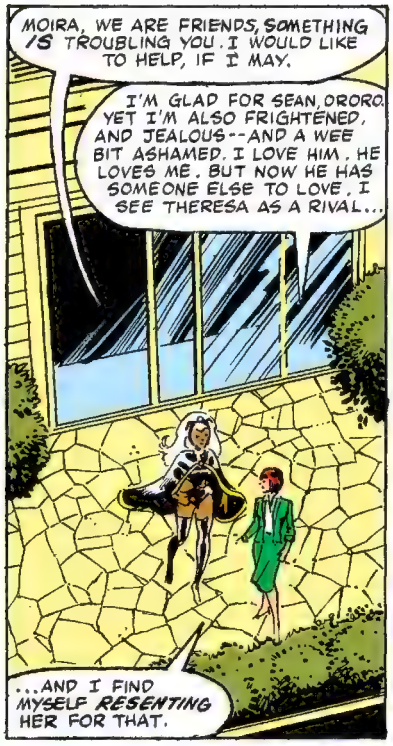

IN THE X-MEN'S HANGER COMPLEX --A MILE FROM THE MANSION, HIDDEN BENEATH THE WOODS THAT COVER MUCH OF THE SPRAWLING ESTATE-- SEAN CASSIDY IS WORKING ON THEIR MODIFIED SR-71 BLACKBIRD, AIDED BY PETER RASPUTIN AND WATCHED BY PETER'S SISTER, ILLYANA.*
LIFT UP THE ENGINE, WILL YE, PETER?
OF COURSE, SEAN.
WITH A THOUGHT, PETER TRANSMUTES HIS FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODY...
* AS BANSHEE, SEAN WAS HIMSELF AN X-MAN, UNTIL INJURIES FORCED HIS RETIREMENT -- L.


...INTO THE SUPER-STRONG, NIGH-INVULNERABLE ORGANIC ARMORED FORM OF COLOSSUS.
GENTLY DOES IT, LAD.
ALL RIGHT, PETER. SET HER DOWN.
<OH, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH-->
<WILL I BE ABLE TO TURN TO STEEL LIKE YOU WHEN I AM GROWN UP?>
<I DO NOT KNOW, ILLYANA NATALAYNOVNA? DO YOU WANT TO?
<I THINK I WOULD LOOK FUNNY.>
WHAT'S SHE SAYIN', PETER?


SHE WONDERS IF SHE IS A MUTANT. PROFESSOR XAVIER CONTACTED OUR PARENTS, TO TELL THEM SHE IS SAFE. PERHAPS, BEFORE SHE RETURNS TO RUSSIA, HE SHOULD EXAMINE HER...
YE SOUND SAD, SON. D'YE MISS Y'R HOME?
OH--HULLO, KURT. WHAT BRINGS YE HERE?

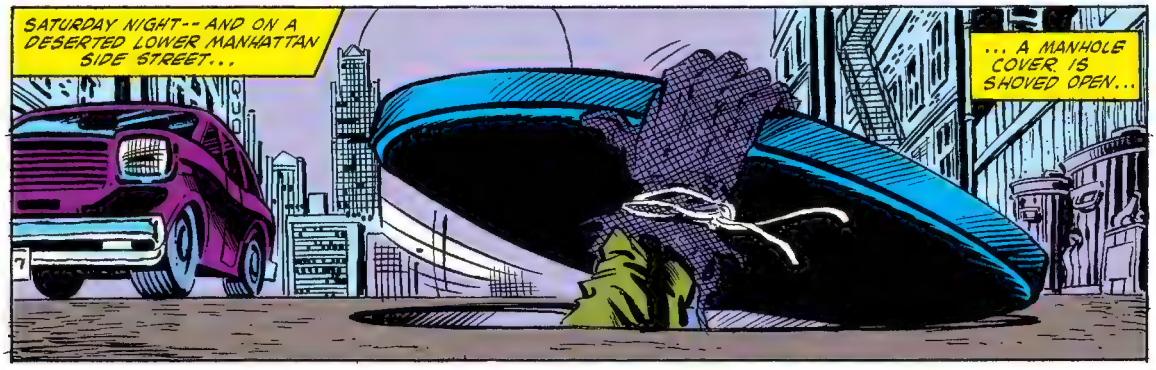
THE PROFESSOR WANTS TO SEE YOU IN THE MANSION, SEAN.
BAMF
TELL HIM I'LL BE ALONG DIRECTLY, AS SOON AS I'VE TIDIED UP.
FINE. AUF WEIDERSEHN, ALL.

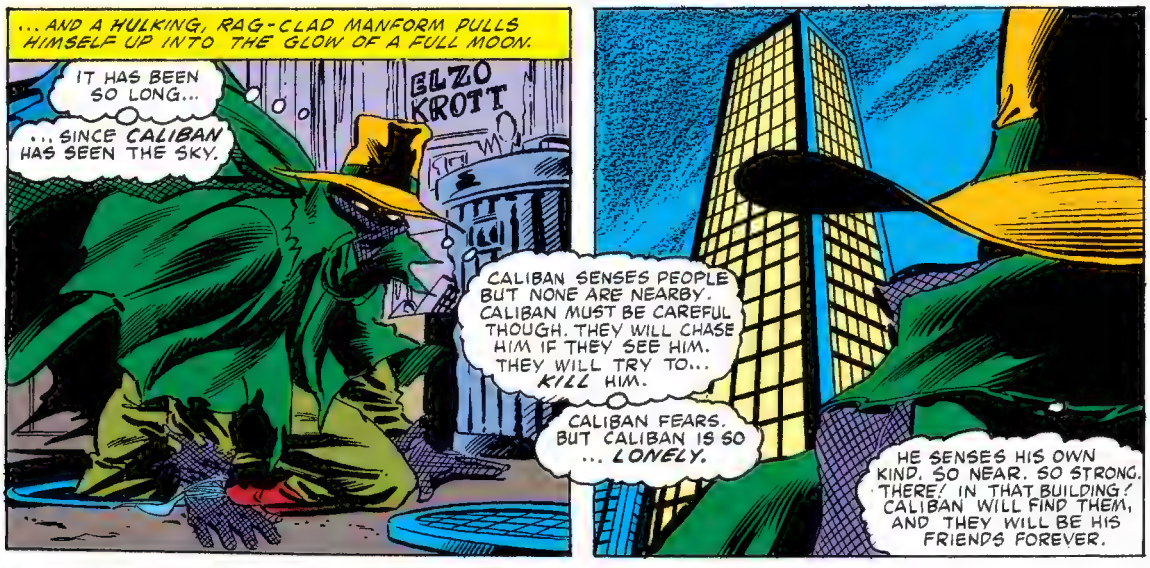

SOON...
CHARLES? I BEG Y'R PARDON, MISS. I WAS LOOKING F'R PROFESSOR XAVIER.
I'M SEAN CASSIDY. CAN I HELP YE?
I'M THERESA ROURKE. YOUR COUSIN TOM ASKED ME TO GIVE YE THIS. IT'LL EXPLAIN WHO I AM... AND WHY I'M HERE.
BLACK TOM CASSIDY IS A ROGUE --AND HE AND SEAN ARE OLD BITTER FOES--YET BANSHEE NEVER DOUBTS THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE READS. HE'D MARRIED YOUNG, FOR LOVE, AND THEY'D HAD A GLORIOUS HONEYMOON TOGETHER BEFORE DUTY SUMMONED HIM AWAY.
WHEN HE RETURNED MAEVE ROURKE CASSIDY WAS DEAD.
THERESA, D'YE KNOW WHAT THIS SAYS?
I DO...
...FATHER.
STANDING OVER HIS WIFE'S GRAVE, SEAN THOUGHT HIS HEART WOULD CRACK WITH GRIEF. NOW, FACING THE DAUGHTER HE NEVER KNEW HE HAD...
... HE WONDERS IF IT WILL BREAK WITH JOY.
NEARBY, PROFESSOR XAVIER HAS BEEN TELEPATHICALLY EAVESDROPPING ON THE SCENE. AS HE TACTFULLY BREAKS CONTACT, HIS SMILE TELLS THE X-MEN--AND THEIR GUEST, SPIDER-WOMAN--THAT THE REUNION IS ALL THEY HOPED IT WOULD BE.
*SHE MET THE X-MEN--AND THEY MET TRACY--IN SW # 38--L.
BUT ONE WOMAN DOESN'T COMPLETELY SHARE THE OTHER'S HAPPINESS.
MOIRA?
DR. MACTAGGERT. IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
NO, SPIDER-WOMAN. I'M FINE.
I'M JUST STEPPING OUT FOR A BREATH OF AIR.

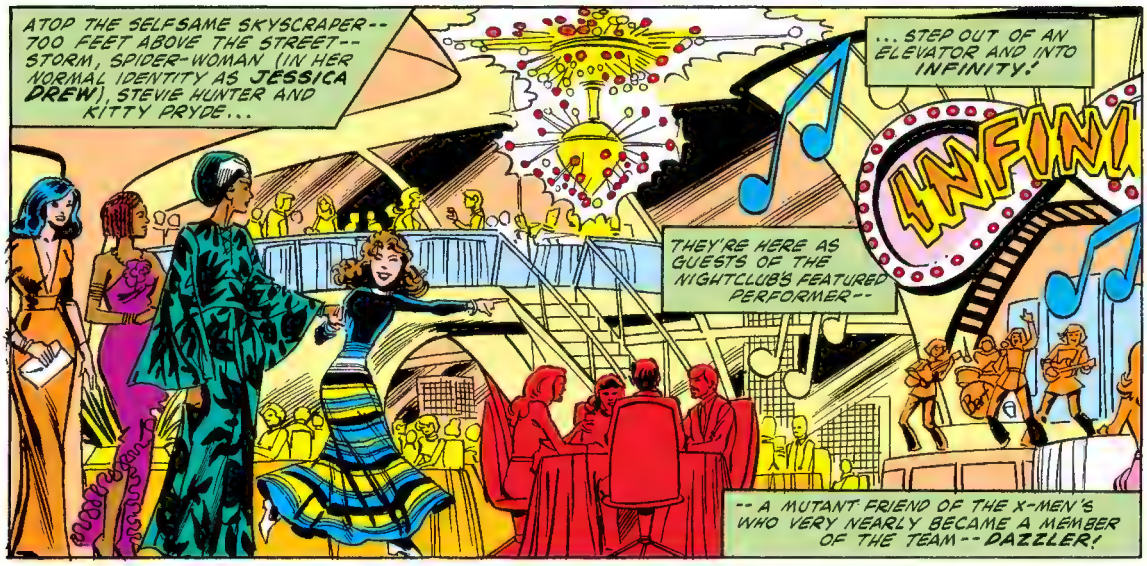

MOIRA, WE ARE FRIENDS, SOMETHING IS TROUBLING YOU. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP, IF I MAY.
I'M GLAD FOR SEAN, ORORO. YET I'M ALSO FRIGHTENED, AND JEALOUS--AND A WEE BIT ASHAMED. I LOVE HIM. HE LOVES ME. BUT NOW HE HAS SOMEONE ELSE TO LOVE. I SEE THERESA AS A RIVAL...
...AND I FIND MYSELF RESENTING HER FOR THAT.

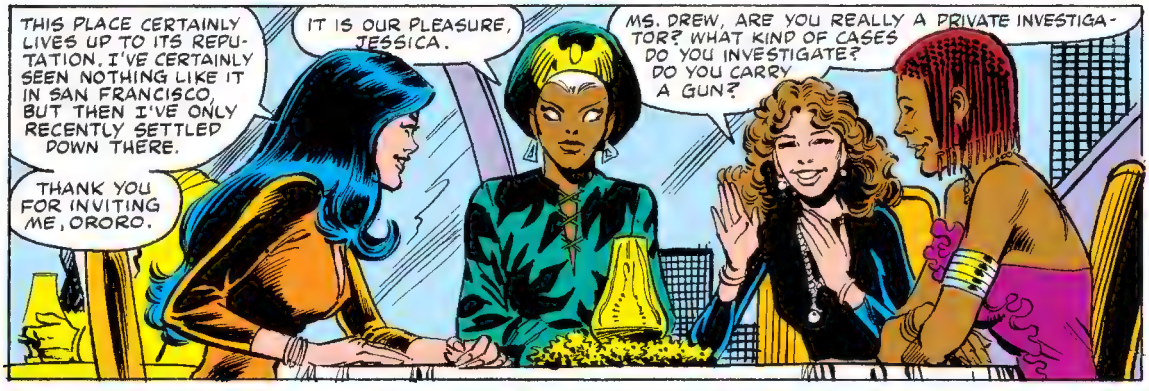
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I SEE STEVIE HUNTER-- KITTY'S DANCE TEACHER-- THE SAME WAY, AS A THREAT TO THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH KITTY.
THERESA REPRESENTS SOMETHING I CANNA GIVE SEAN:--
--A CHILD

I HAD ONE AND HE TURNED INTO A MUTANT MONSTER.* I DAREN'T HAVE ANOTHER. SEAN SAYS IT DOESN'T MATTER TO HIM, BUT IT DOES TO ME.
AYE, WIND-RIDER WE'RE BOTH FACING SOME ROUGH DAYS AHEAD, I FEAR.
WE'LL SURVIVE, MOIRA. WHATEVER HAPPENS.
WILL WE? I HOPE SO.
* PROTEUS, FACED AND FOUGHT IN X-MEN #s 125-128 -- GUESS WHO?

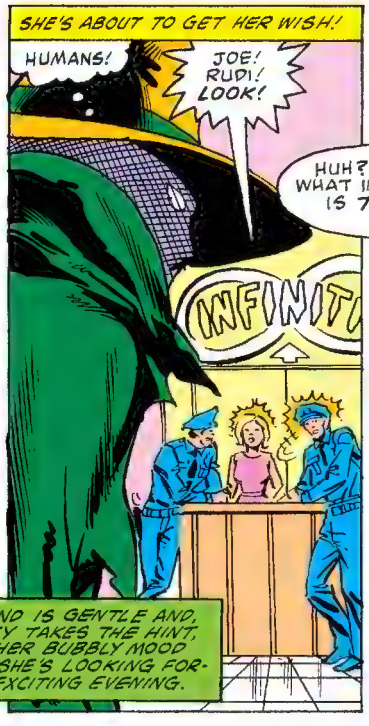

SATURDAY NIGHT-- AND ON A DESERTED LOWER MANHATTAN SIDE STREET...
... A MANHOLE COVER IS SHOVED OPEN...


...AND A HULKING, RAG-CLAD MANFORM PULLS HIMSELF UP INTO THE GLOW OF A FULL MOON.
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG...
...SINCE CALIBAN HAS SEEN THE SKY.
ELZO KROTT
CALIBAN SENSES PEOPLE BUT NONE ARE NEARBY. CALIBAN MUST BE CAREFUL THOUGH. THEY WILL CHASE HIM IF THEY SEE HIM. THEY WILL TRY TO... KILL HIM.
CALIBAN FEARS. BUT CALIBAN IS SO ... LONELY.
HE SENSES HIS OWN KIND. SO NEAR. SO STRONG. THERE! IN THAT BUILDING! CALIBAN WILL FIND THEM, AND THEY WILL BE HIS FRIENDS FOREVER.


ATOP THE SELFSAME SKYSCRAPER--700 FEET ABOVE THE STREET--STORM, SPIDER-WOMAN (IN HER NORMAL IDENTITY AS JESSICA DREW), STEVIE HUNTER AND KITTY PRYDE...
... STEP OUT OF AN ELEVATOR AND INTO INFINITY!
INFINI
THEY'RE HERE AS GUESTS OF THE NIGHTCLUB'S FEATURED PERFORMER--
-- A MUTANT FRIEND OF THE X-MEN'S WHO VERY NEARLY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE TEAM -- DAZZLER!


THIS PLACE CERTAINLY LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION. I'VE CERTAINLY SEEN NOTHING LIKE IT IN SAN FRANCISCO, BUT THEN I'VE ONLY RECENTLY SETTLED DOWN THERE.
IT IS OUR PLEASURE, JESSICA.
MS. DREW, ARE YOU REALLY A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR? WHAT KIND OF CASES DO YOU INVESTIGATE? DO YOU CARRY A GUN?
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME, ORORO.

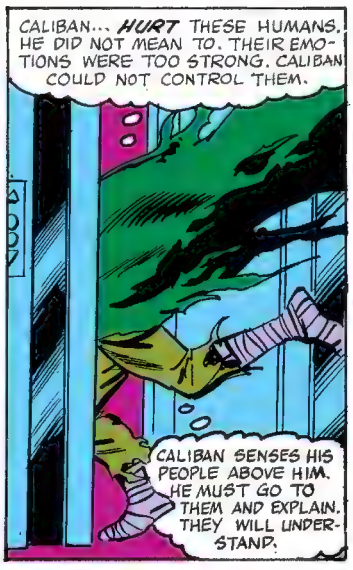
KITTEN, CALM DOWN. YOU'RE PUSHING. THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE AND RUDENESS.
AND I JUST CROSSED IT, HUH?
YOU'RE CLOSE, KIDDO.
THE REPRIMAND IS GENTLE AND, THOUGH KITTY TAKES THE HINT, IT DAMPENS HER BUBBLY MOOD NOT A WHIT. SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING EVENING.

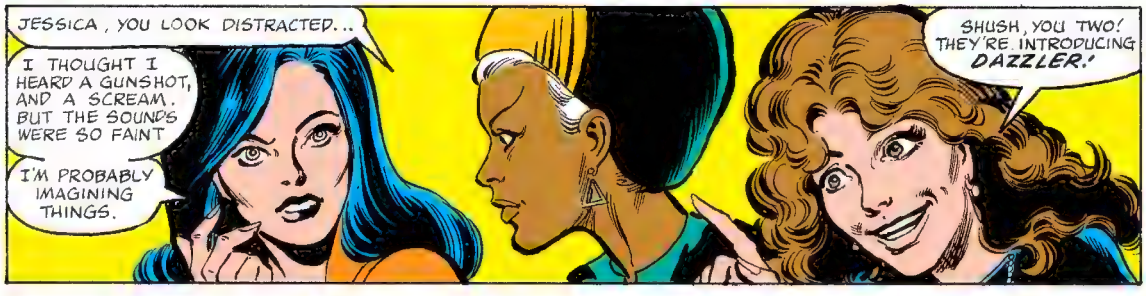

SHE'S ABOUT TO GET HER WISH!
HUMANS!
JOE! RUDI! LOOK!
HUH? HOLY--! WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT?!
INFINIT

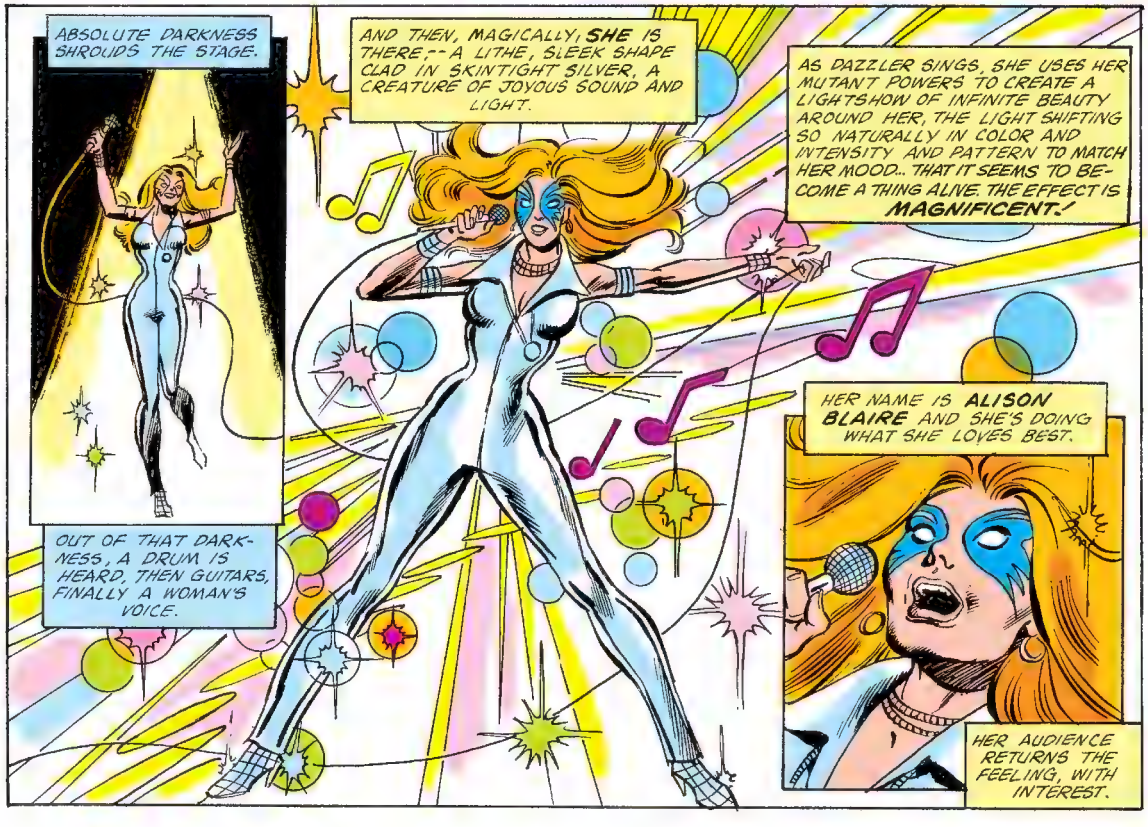
IN THE PAST, CALIBAN HAS TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE COMES IN PEACE, MEANS NO HARM. NO ONE EVER LISTENED.
THEY ALWAYS REACTED AS THESE SECURITY GUARDS DO, WITH FEAR AND REVULSION, HATRED --AND VIOLENCE!

HOLD IT, MISTER! ONE MORE STEP AN' WE'LL FIRE!
I'M WARNING YOU!
EMOTIONS SWIRL LIKE RIP-TIDES AROUND CALIBAN.

HE ABSORBS THEM ALL, SILENTLY SCREAMING AT THE AGONY THEY CAUSE HIM...
BLAM!
...AS HE CONVERTS THEIR POWER INTO A PALPABLE PHYSICAL FORCE AND HURLS THEM BACK AT THE GUARDS.


CALIBAN... HURT THESE HUMANS. HE DID NOT MEAN TO. THEIR EMOTIONS WERE TOO STRONG. CALIBAN COULD NOT CONTROL THEM.
CALIBAN SENSES HIS PEOPLE ABOVE HIM. HE MUST GO TO THEM AND EXPLAIN. THEY WILL UNDERSTAND.


JESSICA, YOU LOOK DISTRACTED...
I THOUGHT I HEARD A GUNSHOT, AND A SCREAM. BUT THE SOUNDS WERE SO FAINT
I'M PROBABLY IMAGINING THINGS.
SHUSH, YOU TWO! THEY'RE INTRODUCING DAZZLER!

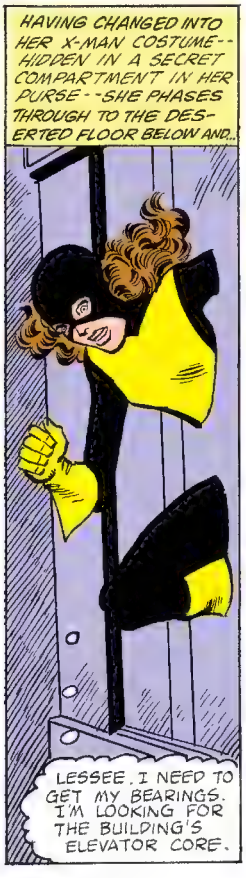

ABSOLUTE DARKNESS SHROUDS THE STAGE.
OUT OF THAT DARKNESS, A DRUM IS HEARD, THEN GUITARS, FINALLY A WOMAN'S VOICE.
AND THEN, MAGICALLY, SHE IS THERE;-- A LITHE, SLEEK SHAPE CLAD IN SKINTIGHT SILVER, A CREATURE OF JOYOUS SOUND AND LIGHT.
AS DAZZLER SINGS, SHE USES HER MUTANT POWERS TO CREATE A LIGHTSHOW OF INFINITE BEAUTY AROUND HER, THE LIGHT SHIFTING SO NATURALLY IN COLOR AND INTENSITY AND PATTERN TO MATCH HER MOOD.. THAT IT SEEMS TO BECOME A THING ALIVE. THE EFFECT IS MAGNIFICENT!
HER NAME IS ALISON BLAIRE AND SHE'S DOING WHAT SHE LOVES BEST.
HER AUDIENCE RETURNS THE FEELING, WITH INTEREST.

SHE RUNS A GAMUT OF STYLES -- ROCK, RHYTHM AND BLUES, SOUL, FOLK, COUNTRY, POP -- AND DOES THEM ALL WELL. SHE'S STILL A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH, BUT NONE PRESENT CAN DENY HER POTENTIAL OR TALENT.
BUT AS THE SET PICKS UP STEAM...
INFINIT
...CALIBAN EMERGES FROM THE ELEVATOR.

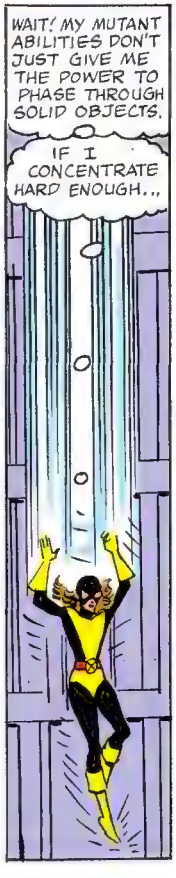
ORORO -- SCREAMS! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE OTHER END OF THE CLUB.
YOU GUYS STAY HERE AND ENJOY THE SHOW.

I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
KITTY --NO!

COME BACK HERE --AT ONCE!
RELAX, ORORO. I'LL BE OKAY.
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SLIP AWAY WITHOUT CREATING A FUSS.

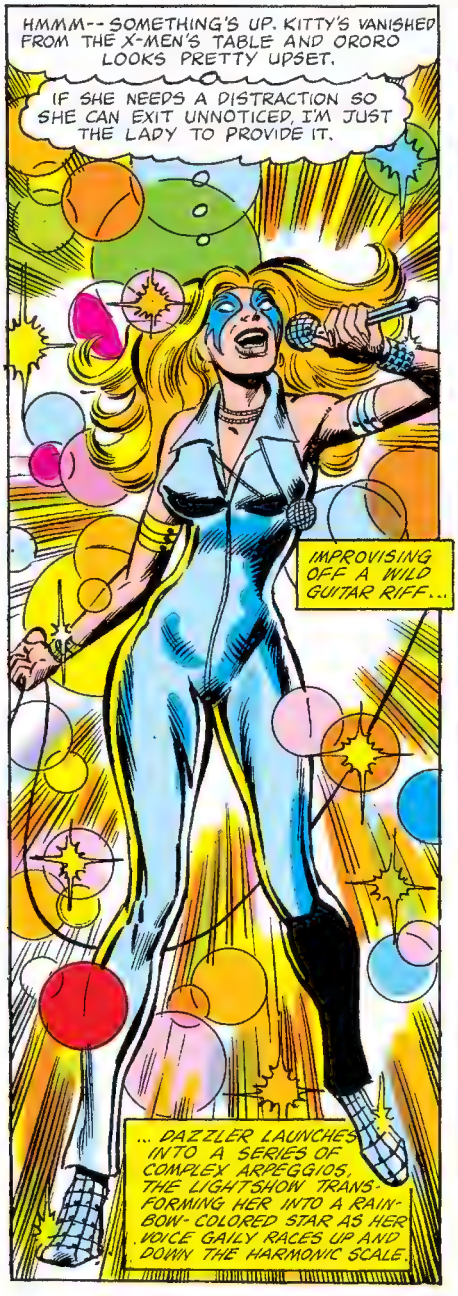

HAVING CHANGED INTO HER X-MAN COSTUME -- HIDDEN IN A SECRET COMPARTMENT IN HER PURSE -- SHE PHASES THROUGH TO THE DESERTED FLOOR BELOW AND...
LESSEE. I NEED TO GET MY BEARINGS. I'M LOOKING FOR THE BUILDING'S ELEVATOR CORE.

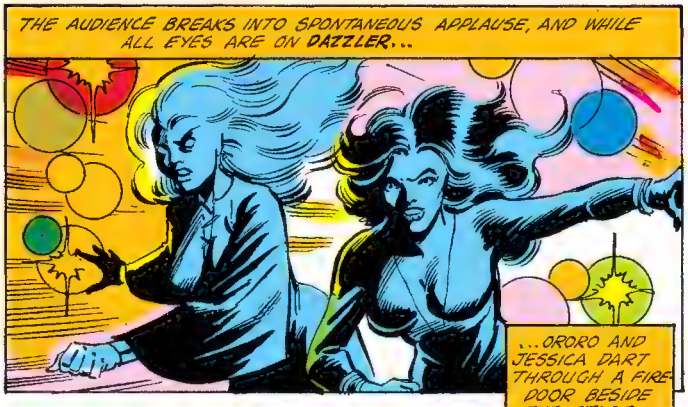
AND I THINK I JUST FOUND IT.
CRIPES! I'M FALLING!


WAIT! MY MUTANT ABILITIES DON'T JUST GIVE ME THE POWER TO PHASE THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS.
IF I CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH...

I CAN LITERALLY WALK ON AIR!
IF ORORO COULD SEE ME NOW, I BET SHE'D BE SO PROUD.

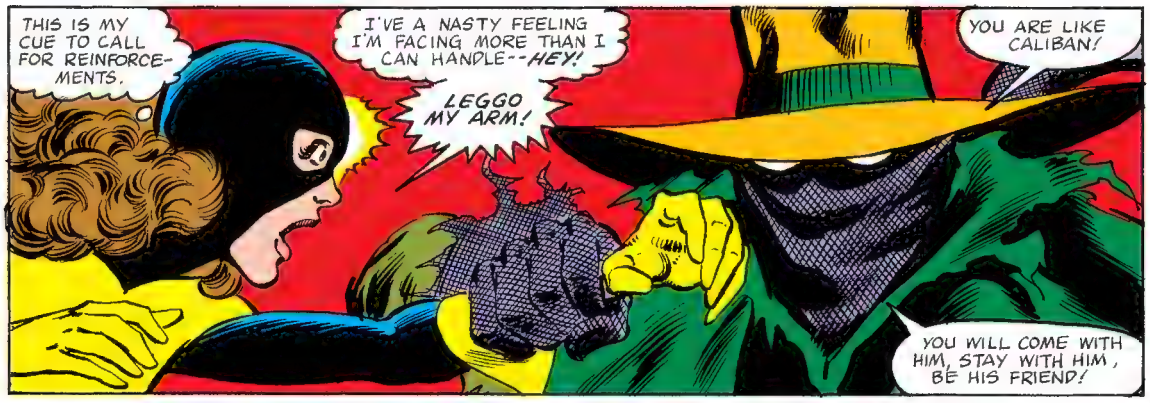
IF I GET MY HANDS ON THAT CHILD, I'LL WRING HER NECK! HOW DARE SHE PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS!
WE HAVE TO GET OVER THERE.
BUT HOW, ORORO? IT'S WALL-TO-WALL PEOPLE AROUND US. YOU'LL NEVER PUSH THROUGH THE CROWD.
ORORO, THE COMMOTION SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GETTING WORSE!

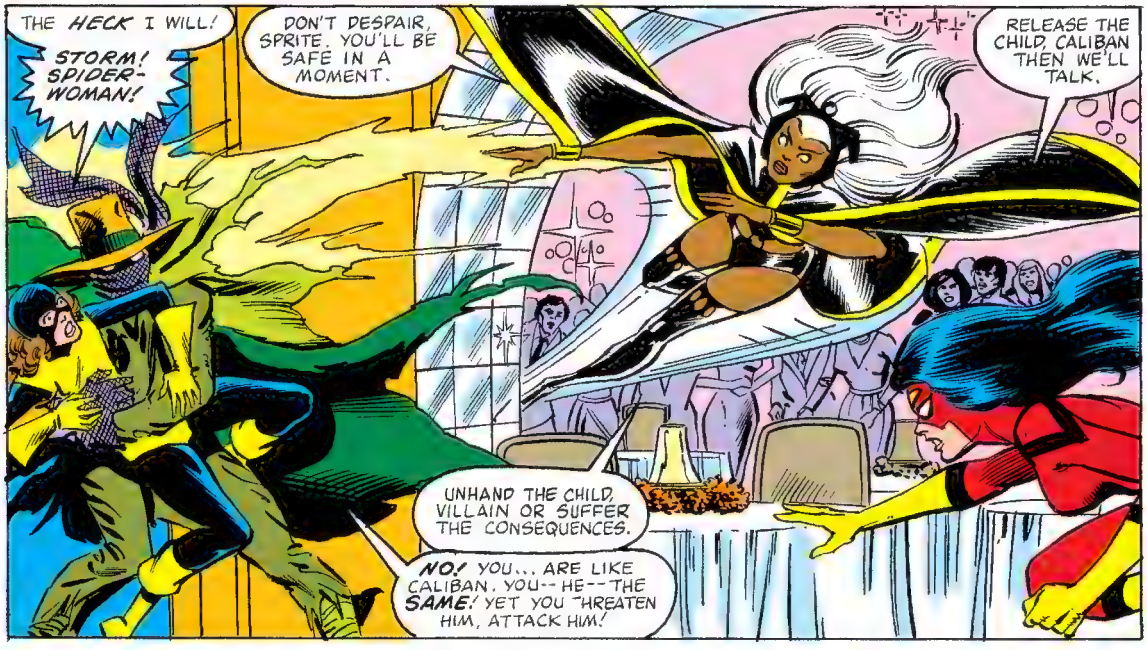

HMMM--SOMETHING'S UP. KITTY'S VANISHED FROM THE X-MEN'S TABLE AND ORORO LOOKS PRETTY UPSET.
IF SHE NEEDS A DISTRACTION SO SHE CAN EXIT UNNOTICED, I'M JUST THE LADY TO PROVIDE IT.
IMPROVISING OFF A WILD GUITAR RIFF...
... DAZZLER LAUNCHES INTO A SERIES OF COMPLEX ARPEGGIOS, THE LIGHTSHOW TRANSFORMING HER INTO A RAINBOW-COLORED STAR AS HER VOICE GAILY RACES UP AND DOWN THE HARMONIC SCALE.


THE AUDIENCE BREAKS INTO SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE, AND WHILE ALL EYES ARE ON DAZZLER...
...ORORO AND JESSICA DART THROUGH A FIRE DOOR BESIDE THE STAGE...

...AND INTO A SERVICE HALLWAY...
... WHERE ORORO GENERATES A PEA-SOUP FOG TO HIDE THEM BOTH WHILE THEY CHANGE INTO COSTUME. MEANWHILE...

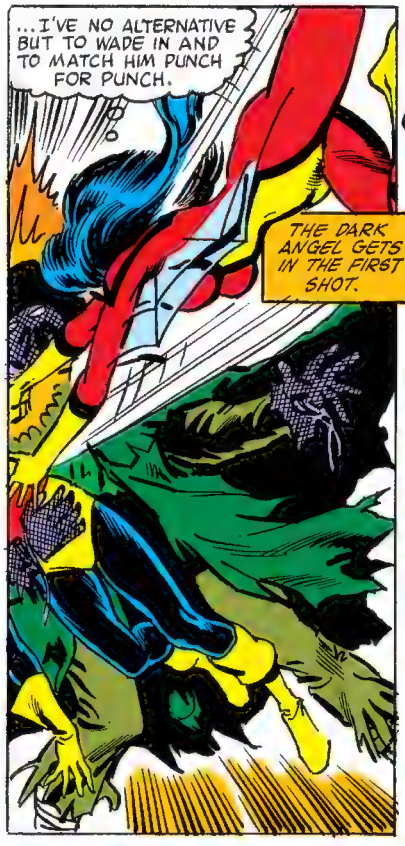
THESE PEOPLE ARE PANICKING!
AND THAT SHADOW MUST BE THE REASON WHY. IT'S HUGE! AND THOSE EYES--GLOWING, BURNING INTO MY MIND!

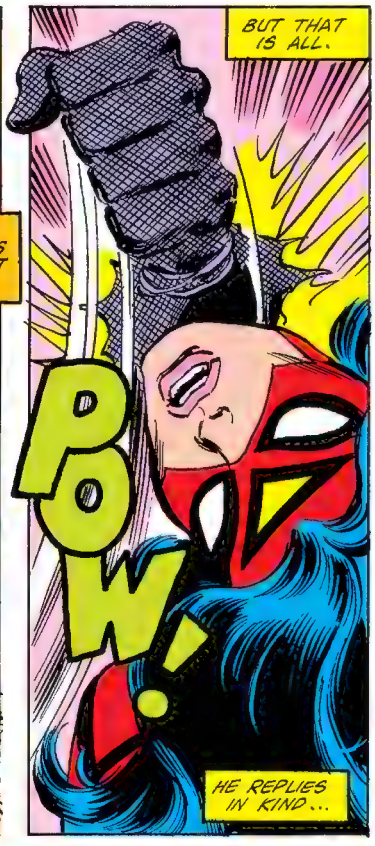

THIS IS MY CUE TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
I'VE A NASTY FEELING I'M FACING MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE--HEY!
LEGGO MY ARM!
YOU ARE LIKE CALIBAN!
YOU WILL COME WITH HIM, STAY WITH HIM, BE HIS FRIEND!

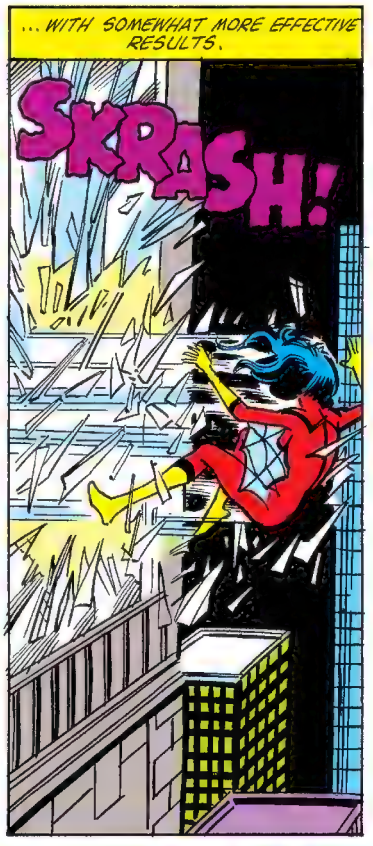

THE HECK I WILL!
STORM! SPIDER-WOMAN!
DON'T DESPAIR, SPRITE. YOU'LL BE SAFE IN A MOMENT.
RELEASE THE CHILD, CALIBAN THEN WE'LL TALK.
UNHAND THE CHILD, VILLAIN OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
NO! YOU... ARE LIKE CALIBAN. YOU--HE--THE SAME! YET YOU THREATEN HIM, ATTACK HIM!

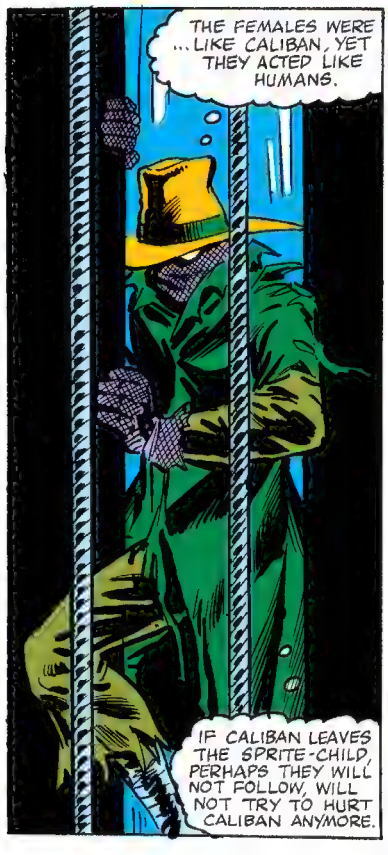
THE SPRITE-CHILD IS CALIBAN'S YOU WILL NOT TAKE HER!
WHUNFFF!

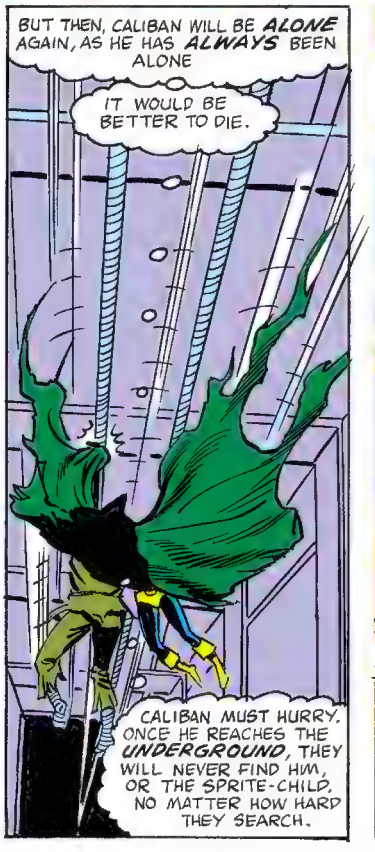
STORM'S UNHURT. THAT TABLE MERELY KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF HER.
SO LONG AS CALIBAN HOLDS KITTY, I DAREN'T UNLEASH A FULL POWER VENOM BLAST. THE BIO-ELECTRIC ENERGY BOLTS MIGHT KILL HER.
STRONG AS CALIBAN SEEMS TO BE...

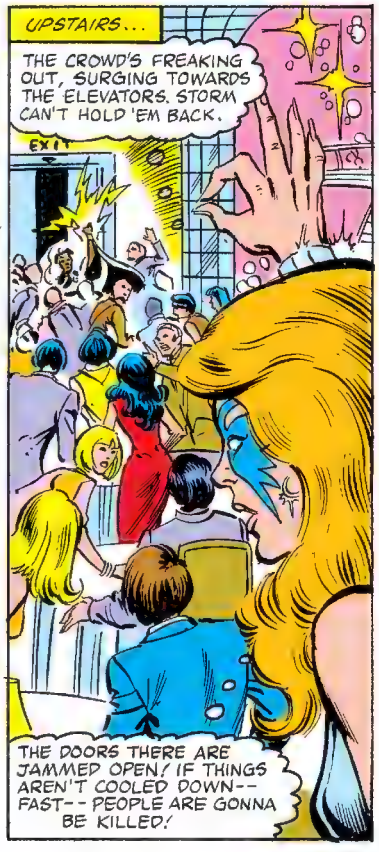

...I'VE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO WADE IN AND TO MATCH HIM PUNCH FOR PUNCH.
THE DARK ANGEL GETS IN THE FIRST SHOT.

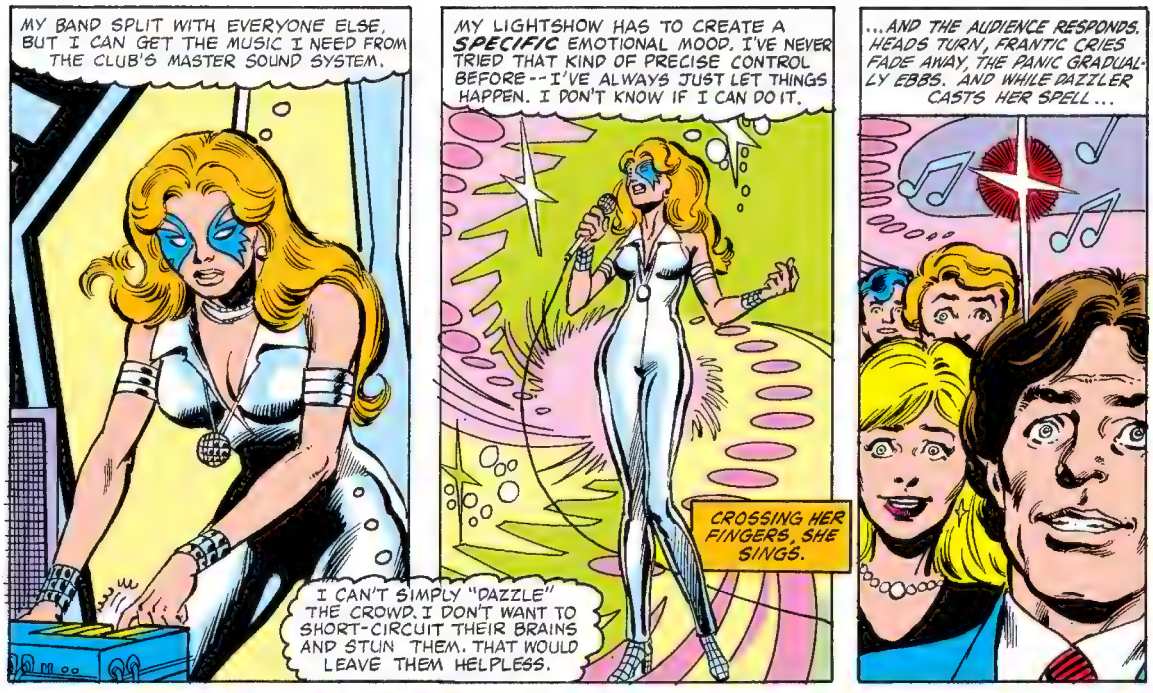

BUT THAT IS ALL.
POW!
HE REPLIES IN KIND...


...WITH SOMEWHAT MORE EFFECTIVE RESULTS.
SKRASH!

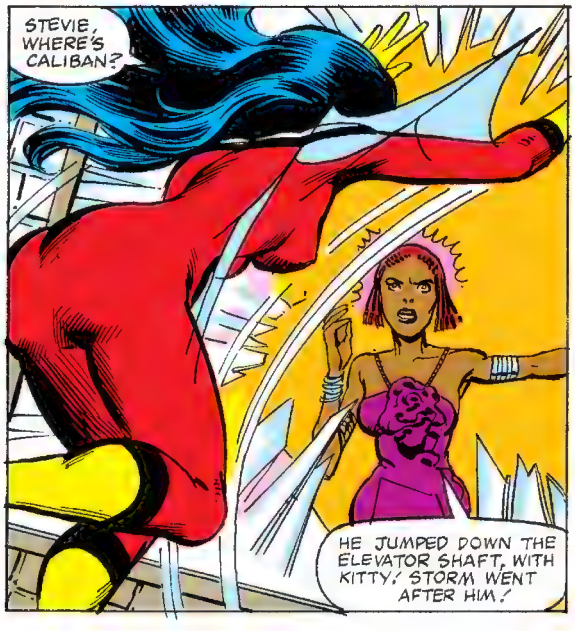

THE FEMALES WERE ...LIKE CALIBAN, YET THEY ACTED LIKE HUMANS.
IF CALIBAN LEAVES THE SPRITE-CHILD, PERHAPS THEY WILL NOT FOLLOW, WILL NOT TRY TO HURT CALIBAN ANYMORE.

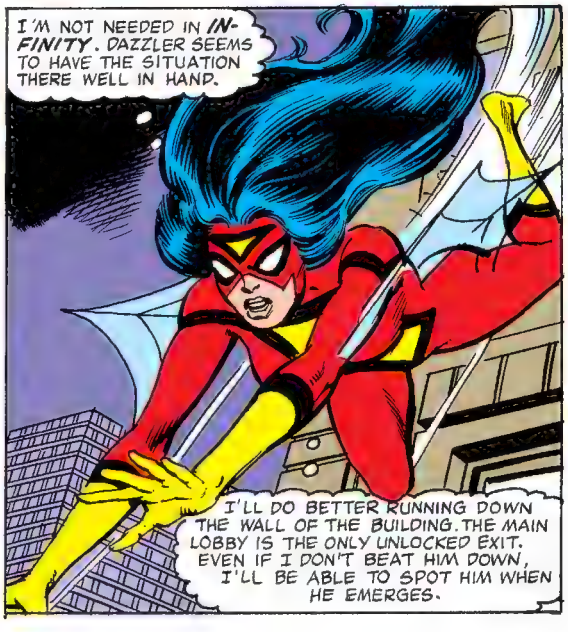

BUT THEN, CALIBAN WILL BE ALONE AGAIN, AS HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ALONE
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DIE.
CALIBAN MUST HURRY. ONCE HE REACHES THE UNDERGROUND, THEY WILL NEVER FIND HIM, OR THE SPRITE-CHILD, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY SEARCH.

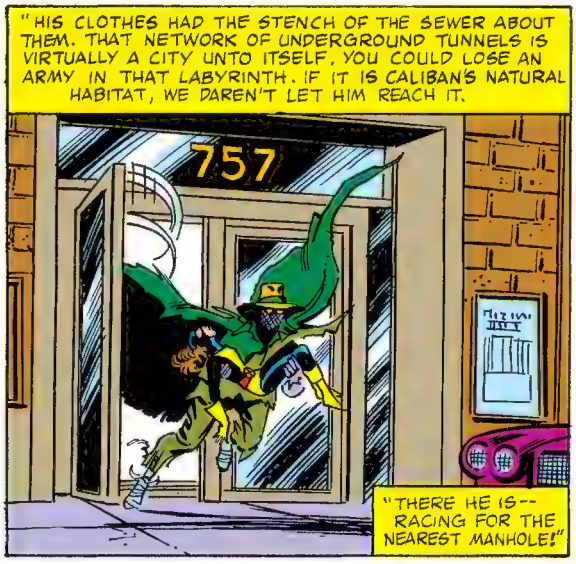

UPSTAIRS...
THE CROWD'S FREAKING OUT, SURGING TOWARDS THE ELEVATORS. STORM CAN'T HOLD 'EM BACK.
EXIT
THE DOORS THERE ARE JAMMED OPEN! IF THINGS AREN'T COOLED DOWN-- FAST-- PEOPLE ARE GONNA BE KILLED!


MY BAND SPLIT WITH EVERYONE ELSE, BUT I CAN GET THE MUSIC I NEED FROM THE CLUB'S MASTER SOUND SYSTEM.
MY LIGHTSHOW HAS TO CREATE A SPECIFIC EMOTIONAL MOOD. I'VE NEVER TRIED THAT KIND OF PRECISE CONTROL BEFORE--I'VE ALWAYS JUST LET THINGS HAPPEN. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT.
...AND THE AUDIENCE RESPONDS. HEADS TURN, FRANTIC CRIES FADE AWAY, THE PANIC GRADUALLY EBBS. AND WHILE DAZZLER CASTS HER SPELL...
CROSSING HER FINGERS, SHE SINGS.
I CAN'T SIMPLY "DAZZLE" THE CROWD. I DON'T WANT TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THEIR BRAINS AND STUN THEM. THAT WOULD LEAVE THEM HELPLESS.

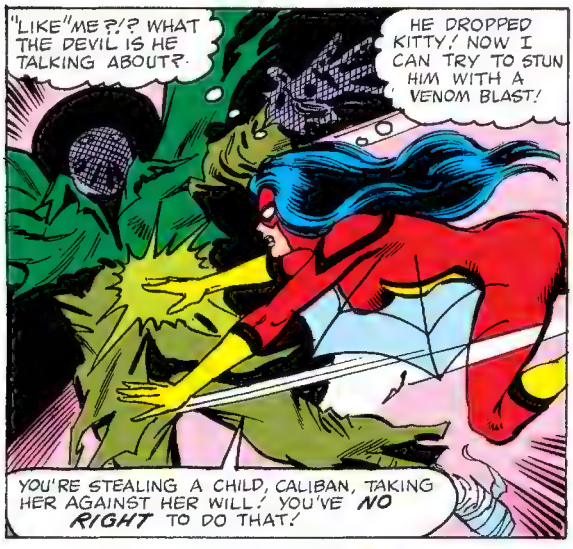
... STORM DIVES DOWN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT AFTER KITTY.
I CAN'T SEE CALIBAN. HE MUST BE NEAR THE BOTTOM.
THIS PIT--SO NARROW--WALLS FEEL AS IF THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON ME, CRUSHING ME!
IT'S A CLAUSTROPHOBIC ATTACK--A BAD ONE! THE FEAR IS... ALMOST OVERWHELMING. IF IT SHATTERS MY CONCENTRATION, I'LL LOSE CONTROL OVER THE WINDS THAT HOLD ME ALOFT. I'LL FALL TO MY DEATH!
GODDESS--HELP ME! FOR KITTY'S SAKE, I MUST... HOLD ON!

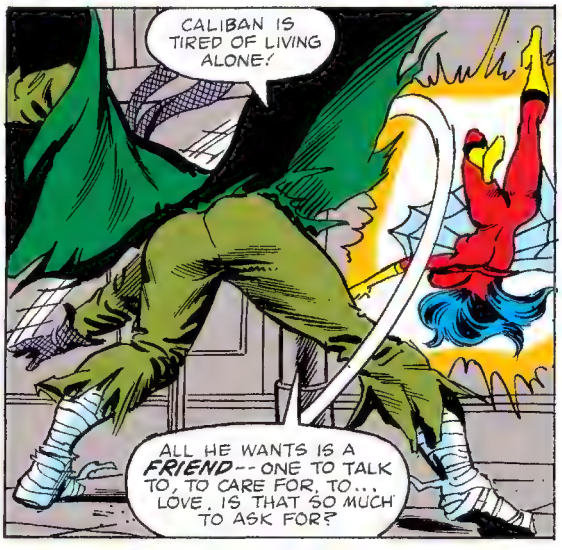

STEVIE, WHERE'S CALIBAN?
HE JUMPED DOWN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT, WITH KITTY! STORM WENT AFTER HIM!

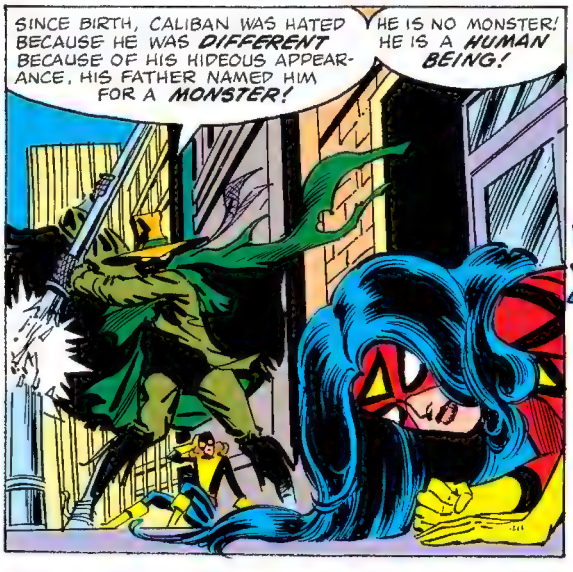

I'M NOT NEEDED IN INFINITY. DAZZLER SEEMS TO HAVE THE SITUATION THERE WELL IN HAND.
I'LL DO BETTER RUNNING DOWN THE WALL OF THE BUILDING. THE MAIN LOBBY IS THE ONLY UNLOCKED EXIT. EVEN IF I DON'T BEAT HIM DOWN, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPOT HIM WHEN HE EMERGES.

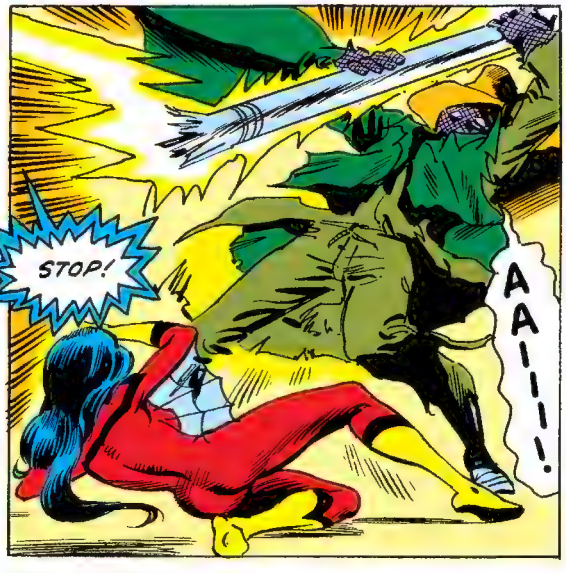

"HIS CLOTHES HAD THE STENCH OF THE SEWER ABOUT THEM. THAT NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS IS VIRTUALLY A CITY UNTO ITSELF. YOU COULD LOSE AN ARMY IN THAT LABYRINTH. IF IT IS CALIBAN'S NATURAL HABITAT, WE DAREN'T LET HIM REACH IT.
757
"THERE HE IS-- RACING FOR THE NEAREST MANHOLE!"

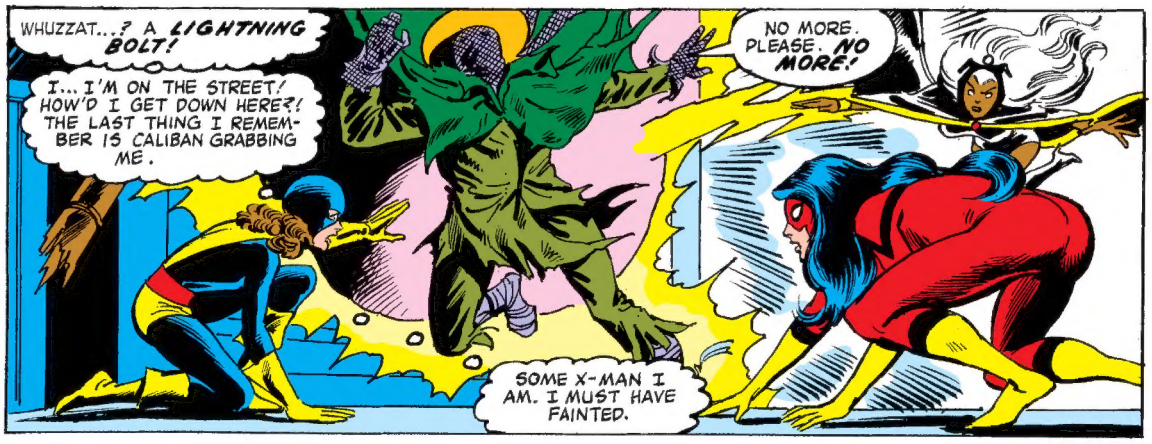
END OF THE LINE UGLY!
LEAVE CALIBAN BE!
HE MEANS NO HARM! HE IS... LIKE YOU! WHY DO YOU HURT HIM?

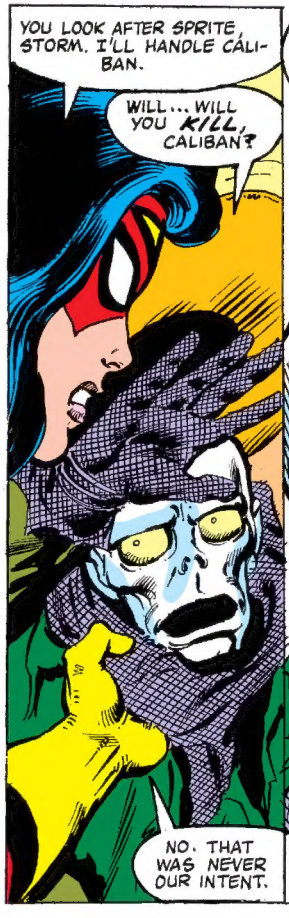

"LIKE" ME?!? WHAT THE DEVIL IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
HE DROPPED KITTY! NOW I CAN TRY TO STUN HIM WITH A VENOM BLAST!
YOU'RE STEALING A CHILD, CALIBAN, TAKING HER AGAINST HER WILL! YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT!

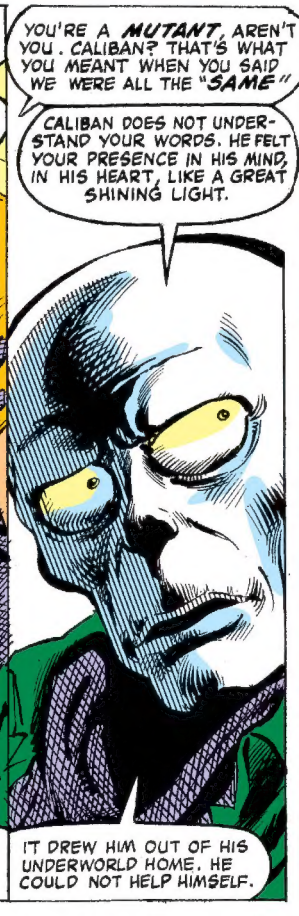

CALIBAN IS TIRED OF LIVING ALONE!
ALL HE WANTS IS A FRIEND-- ONE TO TALK TO, TO CARE FOR, TO... LOVE. IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK FOR?


SINCE BIRTH, CALIBAN WAS HATED BECAUSE HE WAS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF HIS HIDEOUS APPEARANCE, HIS FATHER NAMED HIM FOR A MONSTER!
HE IS NO MONSTER! HE IS A HUMAN BEING!

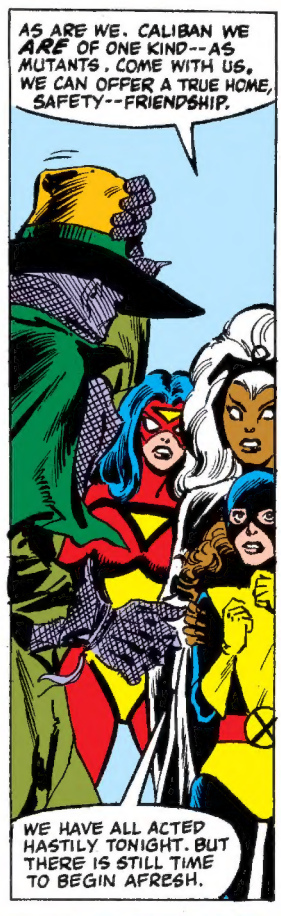

STOP!
AAI!!!


WHUZZAT...? A LIGHTNING BOLT!
I... I'M ON THE STREET! HOW'D I GET DOWN HERE?! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS CALIBAN GRABBING ME.
NO MORE. PLEASE. NO MORE!
SOME X-MAN I AM. I MUST HAVE FAINTED.


YOU LOOK AFTER SPRITE, STORM. I'LL HANDLE CALIBAN.
WILL... WILL YOU KILL, CALIBAN?
NO. THAT WAS NEVER OUR INTENT.

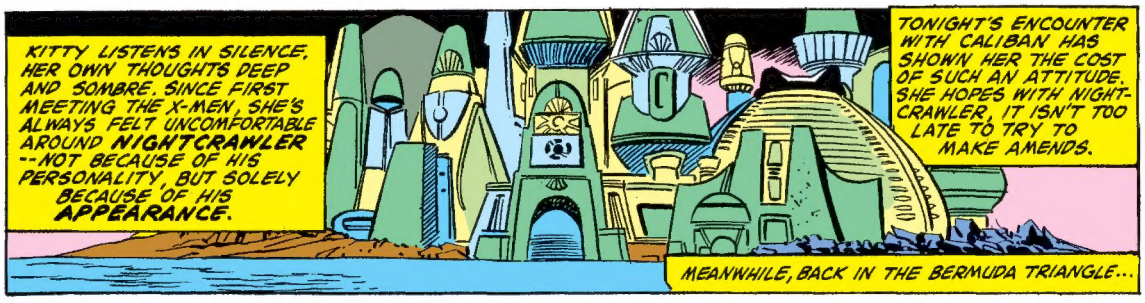

YOU'RE A MUTANT, AREN'T YOU. CALIBAN? THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID WE WERE ALL THE "SAME"
CALIBAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS. HE FELT YOUR PRESENCE IN HIS MIND, IN HIS HEART, LIKE A GREAT SHINING LIGHT.
IT DREW HIM OUT OF HIS UNDERWORLD HOME. HE COULD NOT HELP HIMSELF.

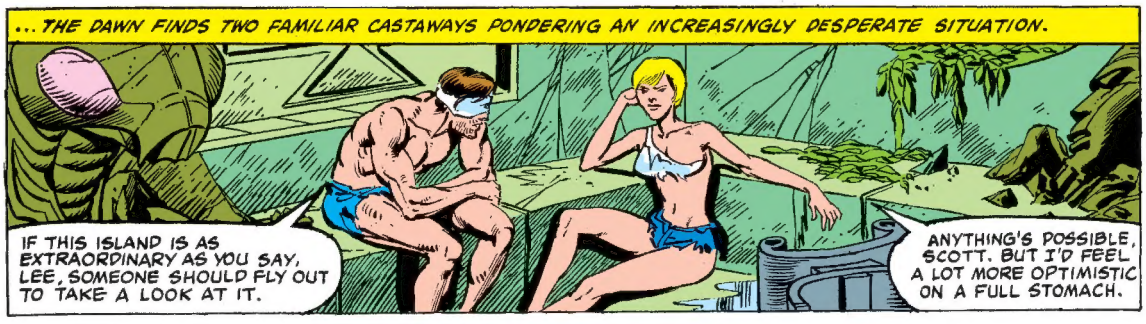
CALIBAN DID NOT WISH TO CAUSE ANYONE HARM. HE THOUGHT HE WAS UNIQUE BUT WHEN HE SENSED OTHERS LIKE HIMSELF, THE THOUGHT OF RETURNING TO THE UNDERWORLD, OF LIVING--FOREVER--ALONE...
... BECAME UNBEARABLE.
CALIBAN IS SORRY.


AS ARE WE. CALIBAN WE ARE OF ONE KIND--AS MUTANTS. COME WITH US, WE CAN OFFER A TRUE HOME, SAFETY--FRIENDSHIP.
WE HAVE ALL ACTED HASTILY TONIGHT. BUT THERE IS STILL TIME TO BEGIN AFRESH.

WHAT'S THAT?! SIRENS--HEADING THIS WAY!
PROBABLY THE POLICE. OUR ROLLS-ROYCE IS PARKED NEARBY. I'LL SUMMON A FOG TO COVER US WHILE WE SNEAK CALIBAN...
NEVER MIND, STORM. HE'S GONE HIS OWN WAY.
HE CHOSE TO RETURN TO HIS "UNDERGROUND" TO LIVE ONCE MORE IN DARKNESS. ALONE.

LATER...
WE SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER HIM. I'VE BEEN AN OUTCAST--IN SOME WAYS, I STILL AM. I WOULDN'T WISH SUCH A FATE ON ANYONE.
NOR WOULD I. IF PROFESSOR XAVIER NOT FOUND US, WE MIGHT WELL HAVE BECOME LIKE CALIBAN--HUNTED, FRIGHTENED. ALONE. BUT WHAT IS DONE CANNOT BE UNDONE.
"FOR THE BEST OF REASONS, WE COMMITTED THE MOST TERRIBLE OF MISTAKES. THAT MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN."

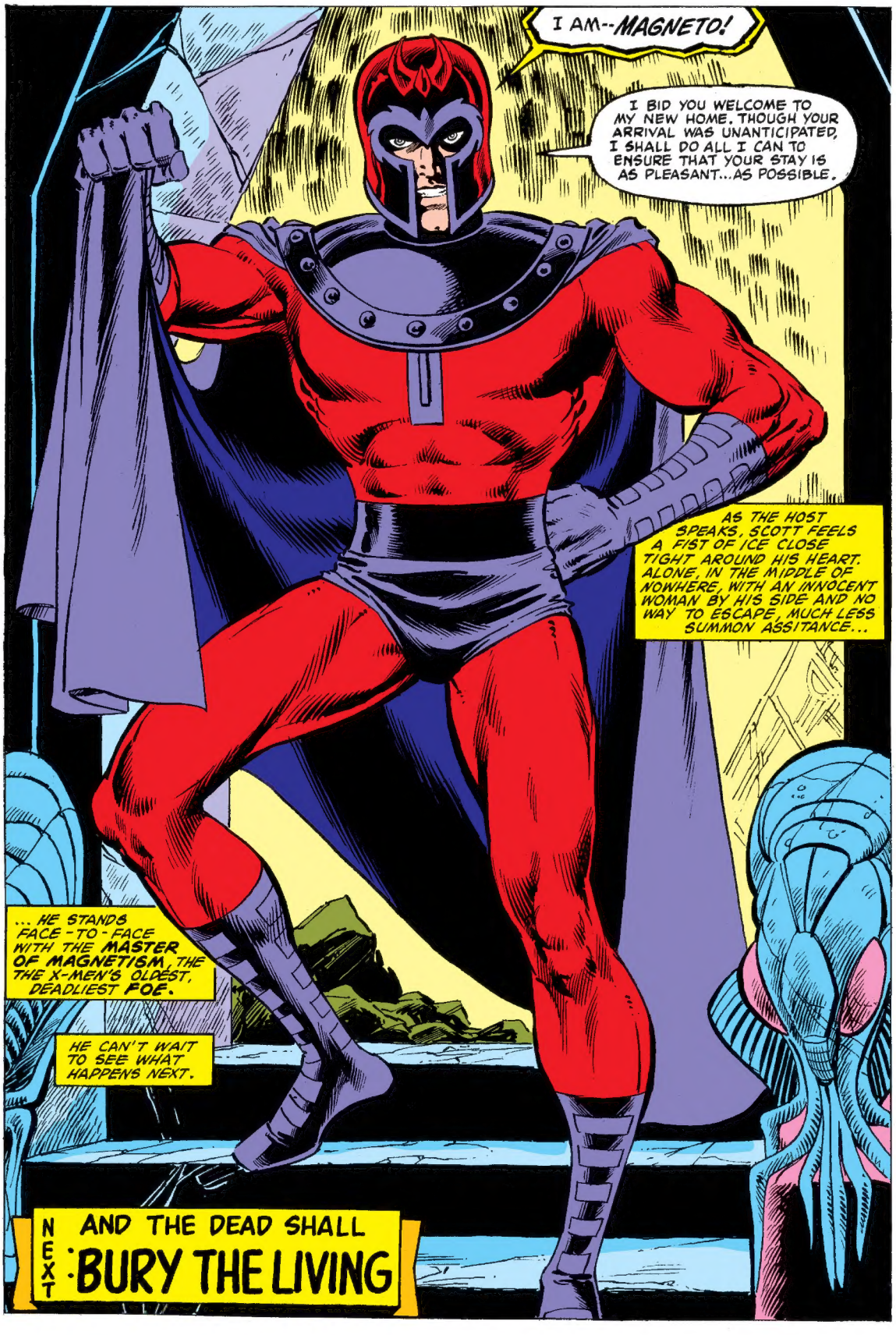

KITTY LISTENS IN SILENCE, HER OWN THOUGHTS DEEP AND SOMBRE. SINCE FIRST MEETING THE X-MEN, SHE'S ALWAYS FELT UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND NIGHTCRAWLER --NOT BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONALITY, BUT SOLELY BECAUSE OF HIS APPEARANCE.
TONIGHT'S ENCOUNTER WITH CALIBAN HAS SHOWN HER THE COST OF SUCH AN ATTITUDE. SHE HOPES WITH NIGHTCRAWLER, IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO TRY TO MAKE AMENDS.
MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE...


...THE DAWN FINDS TWO FAMILIAR CASTAWAYS PONDERING AN INCREASINGLY DESPERATE SITUATION.
IF THIS ISLAND IS AS EXTRAORDINARY AS YOU SAY, LEE, SOMEONE SHOULD FLY OUT TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT.
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, SCOTT. BUT I'D FEEL A LOT MORE OPTIMISTIC ON A FULL STOMACH.

WELL, I COULD TRY USING MY OPTIC BLASTS TO STUN SOME FISH.
REMEMBER LAST ATTEMPT? YOU PULVERIZED THE POOR DEARS!
AHEM!

I THOUGHT MY ISLAND WAS DESERTED. HOW PLEASANT TO DISCOVER THAT I WAS MIS-TAKEN.
THAT VOICE --IT CAN'T BE!
OH, MAN, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!

LEE, WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MENTION MY NAME. IF HE HEARS THAT, IF HE HEARD ME REFER TO MY OPTIC BLASTS--IF HE EVEN SUSPECTS WHO I TRULY AM--
--WE'RE BOTH AS GOOD AS DEAD!


I AM--MAGNETO!
I BID YOU WELCOME TO MY NEW HOME. THOUGH YOUR ARRIVAL WAS UNANTICIPATED, I SHALL DO ALL I CAN TO ENSURE THAT YOUR STAY IS AS PLEASANT...AS POSSIBLE.
AS THE HOST SPEAKS, SCOTT FEELS A FIST OF ICE CLOSE TIGHT AROUND HIS HEART. ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, WITH AN INNOCENT WOMAN BY HIS SIDE AND NO WAY TO ESCAPE, MUCH LESS SUMMON ASSITANCE...
...HE STANDS FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, THE THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE.
HE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.
NEXT: AND THE DEAD SHALL BURY THE LIVING

MINUTEMEN

Sy13nt
Bob